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**Note by the Secretary-General**

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# 1. Asociación de Antiguas Alumnas del Colegio Madres Irlandesas (Special; 2001)

## I. Introduction

**Aims and purposes of the organization**: (a) promote women's rights and independence, with a special focus on achieving universal primary education; (b) eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure the same rights for men and women; (c) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; (d) promote freedom of religion and belief and the interfaith dialogue; and (e) ensure environmental sustainability. Our main course of action is the creation and support of schools and high schools, both in developed and developing countries, in which children can study without any discrimination, following the example of our founder Mary Ward. Moreover, we are deeply engaged with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially with the advancement of gender equality. Our motto is "freedom, justice, sincerity and happiness".

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

### Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Sessions held at United Nations Headquarters, New York: (a) the Beijing + 10 Conference: forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Association attended and lobbied for the best implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with a special focus on Spain, South America and Morocco; (b) the Commission on the Status of Women (fiftieth session). Representatives of the Association attended and participated in the organization of parallel non-governmental organization meetings. In addition, the Association actively took part in the drafting of the oral statement of the Latin American caucus; (c) the Commission on the Status of Women (fifty-first session). Representatives of the Association attended and participated in the organization of parallel NGO meetings; and (d) the Commission on the Status of Women (fifty-second session). Representatives of the Association attended and lobbied for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Our Association has organized several workshops about the role of the United Nations and, in particular, about the aims and purposes of the Economic and Social Council. These workshops took place in Bilbao (Spain), Madrid, Sevilla (Spain), Asilah (Morocco) and Guayaquil (Ecuador) during the period 2006-2008.

**Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**: the Association contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the following three geographical regions: Southern Europe, North Africa and South America.

**Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Target 2**: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. **Actions**: (a) 1,200 women were trained to develop their own businesses; and (b) 1,350 microcredits were granted to poor people to develop their employment. **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education. Target 1**: Ensure that, by 2015,

children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. **Actions**: (a) 500 school material packs delivered; (b) 1,000 scholarships granted; (c) 60 teachers trained; and (d) 10,000 children registered in our nine schools. **Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Target 1**: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. **Actions**: (a) 1,000 scholarships granted to rural and poor girls to enable them to stay in school; (b) specific non-discrimination subjects taught at our schools; (c) 50 instances of legal advice given to women suffering from gender violence; and (d) 1,200 women received literacy training in rural areas. **Goal 4: Reduce child mortality. Target 1**: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate. **Actions**: Medical expenses (e.g., medicines, surgery) paid for 750 poor children. **Goal 5: Improve maternal health. Target 1**: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio. **Actions**: Medical expenses paid for 250 poor pregnant women. **Target 2**: Achieve universal access to reproductive health. **Actions**: 20 workshops and conferences on reproductive health organized.

**Activities in support of global principles**: Our Association has printed 3,500 flyers containing relevant information on the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, since 2006 we have organized, in cooperation with the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a "Focus on spirituality", in which the Goals are analysed from the point of view of interfaith dialogue.

## 2. Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (Special; 2001)

### I. Introduction and main activities

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries is committed to promoting exchanges and cooperation with other countries in the fields of trade, economy, education, social development, sustainable development, youth, sister cities, science and technology, and culture. Its aims are in conformity with the United Nations framework and the Millennium Development Goals.

**New organization affiliations**: (a) Iran Branch Association of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (2008); (b) China-South Africa Friendship Committee of the Association between China and Africa (2008); China-Central Asia Friendship Association (2007); (c) Oman Branch Association of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (2007); (d) becoming an associate member of the Latin American Organization of Intermediate Government (2006); (e) China-Latin American and Caribbean Area Friendship Association (2005); (f) El Salvador-China Friendship Association (2005); (g) Guatemala-China Friendship Association (2005); (h) Haiti-China Friendship Association (2005); and (i) Brunei Darussalam Branch Association of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (2005).

**Promoting peace and friendship through personnel and cultural exchanges**: The Association organized exchange visits for people from all walks of life, including youth, officials, experts, scholars, businessmen and ordinary people. According to incomplete statistics, from 2005 to 2008 the Association received 1,230 delegations

from 89 countries with a total of 14,412 people, sent 519 delegations comprising 6,867 people to over 80 countries on friendship visits and held 325 major activities. For instance, it held the "2008 Paris-Beijing Bicycle Tour of Dreams"; the 2006 Tianjing International Children's Art Festival; the tour exhibition of "The European Union at 50" in Beijing, Shanghai, Changchun and Guangzhou, with support from the delegation of the European Commission to China; the first Conference on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): China People-to-People Friendship Organizations; the second Conference on ASEAN: China People-to-People Friendship Organizations; and the commemorative activities on the sixtieth anniversary of the victory in the anti-fascist world war. These activities largely enhanced mutual understanding and friendship among the people of various countries.

**Promoting social development and poverty eradication**: From 2005 to 2008, the Association actively raised funds of nearly $1 million from at home and abroad for its various programmes concerning poverty eradication, education, environmental protection and medical assistance, including: (a) training English teachers from poor areas (funded by Citibank, the programme consisted of four sessions, was conducted between 2005 and 2007 and trained 120 English teachers from schools in the poor provinces or autonomous regions of western China, including Guizhou, Guangxi, Yunnan and Sichuan. The Association and Citibank also launched a three-year innovative English-teaching competition for teachers from these areas); (b) donating funds and materials to schools (donating books and magazines written in Japanese, with a total value of $1,800 to college students majoring in Japanese language in the underdeveloped areas in western China); (c) providing financial support to university students in China for further study abroad (selecting and sending university students to Japan for master's degrees through the Panasonic scholarship project); (d) providing scholarships for students with financial difficulties (helping children, especially girls, living in mountainous areas to finish their studies, establishing a fund with Japan's Felissimo International Limited to support students from the disaster-stricken areas in Sichuan and working with Citibank in launching the four-year Geping GreenAid Project); (e) donating funds and materials to disaster-stricken areas in China and other countries and expressing sympathy to victims (after the 12 May earthquake in Sichuan, the Association raised and transferred aid funds with a total value of $518,358; in the heavy ice storm at the beginning of 2008, the Association raised a donation of $51,240; in 2005, the Association donated $20,000 to the areas hit by the Indian Ocean Tsunami); (f) training laid-off women workers to learn useful vocational skills (a training programme funded by United Technologies Corporation, this programme trained 968 women from 2005 to 2006); and (g) organizing medical teams to perform volunteer medical consultation in underdeveloped areas.

**Promoting international cooperation and economic development**: During the past four years, the Association sponsored no less than 50 national and international symposiums and conferences in the fields of finance, economics, investment, regional development and high technology, which greatly enhanced the exchanges and cooperation between China and other countries. Furthermore, the Association got actively involved in international and regional conferences. Our representatives made remarks to introduce how Chinese NGOs had participated in pushing for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and discussed relevant issues and projects with delegates from all over the world in international conferences. For

example, (a) in 2008 representatives of the Association attended the eighth World Alliance for Citizen Participation World Assembly, introduced the great efforts made by the Chinese Government and NGOs in aiding disaster-stricken areas and victims of the Sichuan earthquake; (b) in 2006, the Association took part in the sixth Asia-Europe People's Forum, held in Helsinki; (c) in 2006, the Association hosted the China-Spain Forum in Hangzhou, China, in order to deepen economic and technological cooperation between China and the European Union, Spain and Latin America; and (d) in 2005, the Association participated in the United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific Region Conference and Executive Board Conference. Moreover, in July 2008, the Association participated in the United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific Region Conference, and its president was elected the founding chief of the Asia-Pacific Area.

### II. Participation in the work of the United Nations

From 2005 to 2008, the Association attended the following conferences sponsored by the United Nations and United Nations-related organizations: (a) fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth, sixtieth and sixty-first annual Department of Public Information NGO conferences. Representatives of the Association made remarks, answered relevant questions and published articles in the monograph of the annual conference; (b) "Sustainable Development and the Green Olympics", conference of the United Nations international network of NGOs (Beijing). Representatives of the Association provided photos of the Association's work in promoting sustainable development and "green" Olympics; (c) Twenty-third Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) General Assembly (Geneva). Representatives of the Association made remarks on the Association's work at a lunch side meeting and introduced situations about China and the Beijing Olympics; (d) seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government (Vienna); (e) United Nations Public Service Day conference and anniversary activities (New York, 2006); (f) United Nations-NGO Informal Regional Network in the Asia and Pacific Region launch meeting (Beijing), sponsored jointly by the members and organizations of the China Non-Governmental Organization Network for International Exchanges and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; (g) conference held by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and United Cities and Local Governments (Spain, 2005); Association representatives joined the United Cities and Local Governments delegation to visit United Nations Headquarters in New York; and (h) holding a ringing of the Peace Bell ceremony in commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

## 3. International Road Transport Union (Special; 1949)

#### Introduction

**Objective, geographical extension, priorities**: the objective of the International Road Transport Union is to contribute, in the interest of society as a whole, to the development and prosperity, in all countries, of domestic and international road transport and to safeguard the role of road transport for hire and reward and on a person's own account. Since 2004, the Union has admitted new members from Egypt, India, Italy, Kosovo, Montenegro, Pakistan and Turkey. As at 31 December

2008, the Union had 178 members in 74 countries. The Union's priorities are the facilitation of road transport, trade, tourism and sustainable development.

**Cooperation with the United Nations**: facilitation of road transport, trade and tourism.

The Union actively participated in the meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Inland Transport Committee, its Working Party on Road Transport and Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30), all of which deal specifically and concretely with the facilitation of international road transport. The main questions addressed by the Union through written and oral contributions included:

**Facilitation of international road transport**: (a) submission of proposals on the facilitation of border crossings in Central and Eastern Europe, the aim of which is to reduce border waiting times, increase road transport security and reduce the number of attacks on international drivers and the theft of vehicles and cargo; (b) submission of various proposals on the mitigation of the visa problem for professional drivers employed in international road transport; (c) invitation to Governments to implement as soon as possible the new annex 8 on the facilitation of border crossing by road of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982), as initiated by the International Road Transport Union; (d) support for proposals to reinforce the freedom of transit of road transport vehicles, drivers and cargo in accordance with article V of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; (e) active contribution to debates on enhancing supply chain security, in particular using the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets to implement the World Customs Organization's SAFE Framework of Standards, including "authorized economic operator" status; (f) submission of the road transport industry's views on fiscal measures affecting road transport; and (g) submission of a draft global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBus).

**United Nations agreements and conventions**: (a) promotion of the adoption and practical implementation of United Nations multilateral legal instruments on road transport in South America, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia, including China; (b) participation in the adoption of the Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road and the promotion of its practical implementation; and (c) support, in the form of proposals and the organization of special expert meetings in parallel with official United Nations events, for the harmonization of provisions of the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport with those of European Union legislation. Proposed and worked in cooperation with members of the International Road Transport Union on the modalities of introducing the digital tachograph in all States party to the European Agreement according to the deadline fixed.

**Assistance to countries in transition and developing countries**: (a) organization of a number of truck caravans from Asia to Europe, the most recent being prepared in cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the introduction of a business project, the New Euro-Asian Land Transport Initiative, regularizing local, regional and transcontinental road freight transport along the Silk Road (see also "road safety" below); (b) contributed to the

further development of international road transport by the permanent delegation and Liaison Committee of the International Road Transport Union to the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow; (c) creation of a new permanent delegation to the Middle East region in Istanbul; (d) supported the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Union of Road Transport Associations; (e) organized numerous seminars, conferences and congresses on the contribution of road transport to sustainable development and the creation and distribution of wealth in the world, in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions; and (f) continued constructive cooperation with the secretariats of the United Nations regional commissions for Western Asia and Asia and the Pacific as one of the partner agencies in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action developed under the auspices of the Office of the High Representative for Landlocked and Least Developed Countries and approved by the General Assembly.

**Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention)**: (a) organized and ensured the efficient functioning of the TIR international guarantee chain established by the TIR Convention; (b) played a major role in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe's Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport, the TIR Administrative Committee and the TIR Executive Board through contributions, reports and proposals aimed at improving the functioning and ensuring the sustainability of the TIR system; (c) developed and participated in the implementation of an international risk management system for TIR carnets (SafeTIR), set up in accordance with annex 10 of the TIR Convention, which entered into force on 12 August 2006, replacing the recommendation adopted on 20 October 1995. The risk management system is composed of an international computerized network linking 56 customs administrations, national transport associations and the International Road Transport Union. Despite the obvious benefits of the system for both customs administrations and the private sector, after more than 10 years only 50 per cent of the termination data is transmitted in less than 24 hours; (d) worked towards the computerization of TIR procedures, to the benefit of customs administrations, transport and trade. The Union developed a web-based application which allows TIR carnet-holders to submit their TIR electronic pre-declarations to customs administrations. By 1 January 2009, the date on which the electronic pre-declarations became mandatory in the European Union, the International Road Transport Union application was operational in five contracting parties. It is hoped that the Economic Commission for Europe will encourage its implementation in all TIR contracting parties; and (e) annual transfer of funds to cover the budget of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat, as the Union has done since their creation.

**Cooperation with the United Nations: sustainable development**

**Economic development**: The Union participated in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe's Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics, highlighting on various occasions that the internalization of transport's external costs required sound cost-benefit analyses and that ensuring economic growth would require that charging be applied to all transport modes and that revenues from road charging be earmarked for the road transport sector.

**Road safety**: (a) further to the General Assembly resolution on road safety, the Union participated in meetings of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and

confirmed the road transport sector's commitment to helping improve road safety; (b) the Union followed the work of the Economic Commission for Europe Working Party on Road Traffic Safety, putting special focus on the results and recommendations of a scientific study on European truck accident causation, jointly commissioned by the European Commission and the International Road Transport Union; and (c) the Union's proposal to organize a road safety truck caravan from Abu Dhabi to Istanbul in 2009 was welcomed by representatives of international organizations and Governments attending the joint Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia-Global Road Safety Partnership workshop on building the Arab Mashreq road safety partnership, held in Doha in October 2008.

**International carriage of dangerous goods by road**: (a) contributed to the Economic Commission for Europe's Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and joint meetings on Regulations Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail, the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road and the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways; (b) organized a special working group, comprising representatives from contracting parties and industry, to harmonize chapter 5.4.3 of the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road. The aim was to simplify the written instructions into one single drivers' instruction on the measures to be taken in case of accident or emergency. By the end of 2008, these had been translated into 27 languages; (c) the Union, together with the Portuguese delegation, launched a project for the harmonization of the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road certificate — chapter 8.2; (d) followed the work of the Economic Commission for Europe informal telematics working group, which was set up to consider the possible use of "intelligent transport systems" to enhance the provisions for the carriage of dangerous goods; and (e) supported the initiative to facilitate transit through tunnels according to classes and to assess more precisely the problems raised by the industry regarding the efforts made in recent years to harmonize all major international instruments.

**Combined transport**: The Union continued to participate in meetings of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics and also collaborated closely with the Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports, recommending the use of the modular concept, coupled with real business incentives, to make combined transport environmentally and economically viable.

**Construction of vehicles**: The Union continued its active participation in the meetings of the Working Parties on General Safety Provisions, Lighting and Light-Signalling and Brake and Running Gear, and in an informal working group set up by the Working Party on Brake and Running Gear to focus on the development of technical specifications for autonomous emergency-braking and lane-departure warning systems.

## 4. MiRA Resource Centre for Black, Immigrant and Refugee Women (Special; 2001)

### I. Introduction

The aim of the organization MiRA Centre is to promote equality for black, immigrant and refugee women in Norway. The Centre tries to increase awareness about the specific conditions that often determine the quality of life of minority women. Through well-established legal and social services, information and networking, the MiRA Centre tries to strengthen the position of minority women in Norwegian society. MiRA is a place for self-organization. Through the active participation of minority women themselves, the Centre has created a space where people can define their own realities and name their own problems and strengths.

**Activities the MiRA Centre offers**: (a) legal assistance in various crisis situations — the MiRA Centre gives assistance on legal and social matters to immigrant and refugee women and young girls with minority backgrounds. These matters may include economic or marital problems; questions of immigration, family reunification and deportation; and conflict within the family. MiRA has a close cooperation with the crisis centres in Norway and with other institutions to protect minority women's human rights; (b) networking: the MiRA Resource Centre is the only networking organization for minority women at the national and Nordic level. The Centre frequently arranges seminars and conferences for minority women and young girls, where they can discuss the issues related to their socio-economic, political and cultural situation. The members of the network regularly receive information about various activities at the Centre, and the women from the network actively participate in the development and formation of these activities. The network is the driving force behind all policymaking and political intervention in the public debate by the MiRA Centre; (c) youth activities: the MiRA Centre is a meeting place for young girls with minority backgrounds. The young girls have their own activity groups and a debate and chat room on the Internet. The MiRA Centre also has a broader network within the schools, and our school campaign is very successful. Advisers from the MiRA Centre give assistance to school authorities, young girls and their parents on various matters of generational conflict and intercultural communication. The Centre provides a special course package for teachers in order to increase their competence in multicultural and multilingual education; (d) self-development courses: the MiRA Centre arranges courses for minority women in order to improve their self-image and to empower them to resolve their own problems. During these courses, the women learn to mobilize their own inner resources in order to improve their life conditions; (e) counselling for psychological and emotional distress: migration to a new country involves many new adjustments. Leaving family and friends and coming to a new environment where one might not know many people can create a feeling of loneliness. Until one learns the new language to communicate with the people in that environment, one might also feel isolation. Such difficult life situations could be the breeding ground for many psychological and emotional problems. It is important to seek help in such situations. The MiRA Centre provides professional counselling for minority women in such life crises; (f) information, publications and audio-visual productions: information is essential to create solid two-way communication and mutual understanding of cultures and society. Information is also important to develop an

insight into what it means to live in a multicultural society and to learn to respect the differences that exist or arise. The MiRA Resource Centre offers numerous activities and has a large information network, both for minority women and for Norwegians who work with the issues of integration and minorities. The Centre publishes a magazine and various independent publications, which highlight the situation of minority women and young girls. It aims to build a library with documentation of audio-visual and written material for research and information purposes. In addition, the women from the MiRA Centre hold lectures and offer courses to interested institutions, organizations and others on various issues, such as arranged and forced marriages, female genital mutilation, minority women and immigration legislation, minority women in the media, violence against women and minority women in the labour market.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings**

**2005:** (a) Beijing + 10 Conference: forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations Headquarters, New York; and (b) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination — 66th session, Geneva.

**2006:** (a) high-level dialogue on international migration and development, United Nations Headquarters, New York; and (b) informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector on international migration and development, United Nations Headquarters.

**2007:** (a) the International Women's Summit on Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS, Nairobi — representatives attended meetings that related to the health and status of women; and (b) the spring 2007 conference of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Oslo.

**2008:** fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations Headquarters, New York. The MiRA Centre attended and contributed both orally and in writing on the subject of financing for gender equality.

## 5. Susila Dharma International Association (Special; 1989)

### I. Aims and purposes of the organization

Susila Dharma International Association is a non-profit organization in continuous operation since 1969 and is registered as a charity in the United States of America. The Association is a global, member-based network made up of 70 national Susila Dharma organizations and humanitarian projects in Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Suriname, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States, Viet Nam and Zambia, among others. The goals of the network are to relieve human suffering and promote just and

sustainable development through partnerships and support for grass-roots, participatory development and humanitarian initiatives, empowering individuals and communities to engage in positive human, social and economic change and raising awareness of global issues and interdependence.

**Activities of the organization during the reporting period 2005-2008**: the Association acted as the secretariat to our international network. The office worked to strengthen the capacity of our members, local organizations, development professionals and volunteers. The Association facilitated shared learning between member organizations and interested individuals by maintaining its website; publishing monthly electronic news with regular reporting from the Association's United Nations representatives in English, French and Spanish; organizing, training and networking events; carrying out research that highlighted good practices; and publishing that research for our members. The Association identified and coordinated human, technical and financial resources to assist members and their communities.

## II. Contribution of the Association to the work of the United Nations

### Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

**2005:** (a) Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva and New York); (b) NGO Committee on the Status of Women (New York); (c) NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security (New York); and (d) NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns (New York).

**2006:** (a) briefing on the work of A. K. Chowdhury, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (Vienna); (b) conference by La fédération des agences internationales pour le développement on the Millennium Development Goals (Geneva); and (c) United Nations AIDS conference (New York).

**2007:** (a) fourth session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva); (b) fifth session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva); (c) CONGO Civil Society Forum (Geneva); and (d) CONGO General Assembly (Geneva).

**2008:** (a) seventh session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva); (b) Department of Public Information-NGO Conference (UNESCO, Paris); (c) ninth session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva); (d) conference on rebuilding Sustainable Communities for Children and their Families after Disasters (University of Massachusetts, Boston, United States); (e) European conference on rights equality in cultural diversity, by La fédération des agences internationales pour le développement (Paris); and (f) participated regularly in the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

## III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

The Association participated in the NGO Committee on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in New York and CONGO in Geneva. Association members have established cooperation with the following specialized agencies: (a) Complexe Scolaire Susila Dharma Lemba Imbu (Democratic Republic of the Congo): member of Club UNESCO; (b) International Child Development Programme (Norway): cooperates with UNICEF and the World Health Organization in Argentina, Colombia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and

Central America; (c) Mithra Foundation (India): implements human rights education in local schools in Karnataka state; (d) Tierraviva (Argentina): presented at a UNICEF conference on the rights of pregnant women and women with young children in detention in Buenos Aires; (e) Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (Indonesia): cooperated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to pilot the Global Mercury Project; (f) Schools without Violence (Serbia): worked with UNICEF to reduce violence among children; (g) Susila Dharma Indonesia, in conjunction with Yayasan Usaha Mulia: worked for post-tsunami recovery in Aceh and Java in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Yayasan Usaha Mulia is registered with the United Nations Development Programme-Indonesia, with a view to cooperating in the future).

**Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals**

**Public education**: (a) human rights education workshops were developed and presented by the project leaders of the Mithra Foundation (Bangalore, India) in Innsbruck, Austria, in July 2005; (b) South Indian regional consultative meeting on the Millennium Development Goals organized by the Mithra Foundation in Bangalore, India, on 30 March 2006; and (c) reports by the Association on United Nations issues and activities were distributed to Association members and made available to the public.

**Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.** Association member projects used a variety of approaches to combat extreme hunger and poverty, including school feeding programmes for children whose families could not afford to feed them, the introduction of new organic agriculture techniques to reduce the dependency of farmers on costly agricultural inputs and increase income and food production by poor farmers, and women's microcredit programmes to increase family income.

**Association member projects**: Anisha Foundation (India), El Refugio (Colombia), Mithra Foundation (India), Susila Dharma Indonesia, SINTRAL (Ecuador), Society for Rural Advancement and Democratic Humanitarian Action (SRADHA) (India), and SUN for LIFE (Madagascar).

**Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.** In Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and other countries, Association members include 18 schools, tutoring and reading programmes, and scholarship programmes to improve access to primary school, attendance and completion rates. Active members: Albadi School and Orphanage (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Anisha Foundation (India), Bina Cita Utama School (Indonesia), Centre for Culture and Development (India), Children's Vision (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)), Complexe scolaire inkisi (Democratic Republic of the Congo), École nkembo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Entrelazos (Argentina), Fundación Amanecer (Colombia), Fundación Educativa Amor (Colombia), Fundación Despertar (Argentina), Groupe scolaire Lemba Imbu (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Inka Samana School (Ecuador), Lewes New School (United Kingdom), Mithra Foundation (India), Quest Fund (United States/Zambia), Roda Viva Community Project (Portugal) and Vida Plena (Paraguay).

**Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.** Eight members worked with education and awareness, women's groups and microcredit programmes to

empower and include women in access to resources and decision-making. Active members: Anisha (India), Mithra Foundation (India), Puppeteers without Borders (France), Tierraviva (Argentina), Susila Dharma Indonesia, SRADHA (India), Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (Indonesia) and Yayasan Usaha Mulia (Indonesia).

**Goal 4: Reduce child mortality. Goal 5: Improve maternal health. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.** Seven members provided basic prenatal, post-natal and maternal health care, malaria prevention and treatment, HIV/AIDS awareness programmes and childhood vaccinations. Yenge Clinic in Kinshasa was accepted as a pilot community health centre as part of the World Bank health reform project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The clinic is responsible for vaccinating all children and distributing mosquito nets to all households in an area of 19,063 inhabitants. Active members: (a) Asociación Vivir (Ecuador), (b) Clear Path International, (c) Quest Center for Integrative Health (United States), (d) Elegance Medical Centre and École médicale de Kimpemba, (e) Polyclinique Nandora-Vunguta, (f) Yenge Health Centre (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and (g) Usaha Mulia Abadi (Mexico).

**Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.** Nine Association members worked to protect the environment through promoting sustainable agriculture that lowers costs for farmers and reduces the negative impact of chemicals on humans and the environment, creating green spaces and raising awareness of their importance among children and communities and reducing dependence on inefficient wood-burning and other damaging practices. Active members: A Child's Garden of Peace (Brazil), Altai Conservancy (United States and Russian Federation), Anisha Foundation-Rural (India), Mithra Foundation (India), SINTRAL (Ecuador), SRADHA (India), SUN for LIFE (Madagascar), Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (Indonesia) and Usaha Mulia Abadi (Mexico).

The following Association member projects worked for the protection of internationally recognized human rights in other areas, especially the rights of the child: International Child Development Programme (Norway), My Neighborhood International (United States), Mithra Foundation (India), Puppeteers without Borders (France), Roda Viva Community Project (Portugal), Schools without Violence (Kosovo) and Tierraviva (Argentina).

## 6. Unión de Asociaciones Familiares (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

**Aims and purposes of the organization**: The Unión de Asociaciones Familiares (UNAF) is a Spanish national, secular and non-governmental organization established in 1989. UNAF represents 25 national organizations whose primary mission is to work for improving the quality of life of different kinds of families in the society. The specific objective of UNAF is to defend the interests and rights of these families and to express their principal concerns before national and local institutions and forums, thereby stimulating positive changes in family policies. The organization pays special attention to the most vulnerable families. UNAF is a member of the World Family Organization, the European Coordination for Foreigners' Right to Family Lives, the European Forum for Training and Research in Family Mediation, the National Family Council (a Spanish State institution) and

the National Committee of NGOs. Since its foundation and as a pioneer in this field, UNAF has offered several services and training courses on family mediation to families, schools and organizations. Each year UNAF organizes or supports a large variety of national events, including conferences and workshops, on family issues in order to promote a better understanding and knowledge of family diversity, dynamics and development.

**Significant changes in the organization**: change in Constitution — in the past four years, UNAF's structure for decision-making and finance has been unchanged; however, while the organization's aims and purposes remained the same, several articles of its constitution were modified. Those articles were approved by UNAF's general assembly and by the legal authorities on 5 May 2005. The main reason for these changes was to extend the coverage of the organization's activities; these changes have allowed UNAF to work and cooperate in fields like environmental sustainability, families of immigrants, harmonization of work, family and personal life and families with disabled members. Thus, its role in family forums and institutions has been strengthened. During these years, the number of member organizations of UNAF has increased from 21 to 25, and the organization expects to add more in subsequent years.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

### Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization did not participate directly in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies during the reporting period because it focused its activities on the development of education and policy programmes on family mediation and other family issues, collaborating mainly with its members from all over the country and with governmental and local institutions. UNAF representatives have attended several World Family Organization meetings, however, during the period under survey, UNAF continued to strengthen its cooperation with this body, with initiatives like the organization of international and national events with the participation and cooperation of UNAF members.

### Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

**Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.** UNAF has organized conferences on family and migration (international), single-parent families (national) and family diversity and the challenges of equality. The organization has launched and is now running programmes on family mediation services and on conflict resolution among parents, children and schools. UNAF has published a book concerning the development of family mediation in Spain. **Goal 5: Improve maternal health.** UNAF organized conferences on families as agents of health and social welfare (international) and the consequences of violence on the health of families (national). UNAF has launched and is now running programmes on sexuality and health. It has also published a guide on sexual orientation for immigrants. **Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability.** Besides the publication of a guide and a website called "Guardian of Climate" for making students and teachers aware of the negative consequences of climate change, in 2008 UNAF took part in the universal exhibition that was held in Zaragoza, Spain to promote environmental sustainability.

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## Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

**Note by the Secretary-General**

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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## 1. Albert Schweitzer Institute (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

The Albert Schweitzer Institute (ASI) promotes the ideas and philosophies of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, principally through organizing conferences on important issues facing the world today, and through humanitarian activities with students of the Quinnipiac University in Nicaragua, Cameroon and Guatemala. By 2010, college students from other countries will engage in these activities.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**: The Albert Schweitzer Institute continues to address many of the Millennium Development Goals through its humanitarian work in Nicaragua and Guatemala. In collaboration with the Alianza Americana, projects in poverty-stricken communities around Leon, Nicaragua, include: (a) the construction of three classrooms; (b) the construction of a water and septic system for a school; (c) the provision of microscopes for a high school science programme; (d) the construction of school gardens and irrigation systems; (e) the painting and repairing of several classrooms in schools in the area; (f) five years of teacher training programmes for teachers in the Leon area; (g) workshops with representatives of the Quinnipiac University Physical and Occupational Therapy Programs to train health professionals in the Leon, Nicaragua, health system with the latest therapeutic interventions; (h) working with veterans groups to deal with post-traumatic stress syndrome; and (i) workshops on small business development.

Similar programmes are being implemented in Guatemala in cooperation with the Rigoberta Menchú Foundation. More conferences and special events in conjunction with United Nations entities are in the planning stages.

**Activities in support of global principles**: (a) the Albert Schweitzer Institute co-sponsored the conference entitled "A firm and lasting peace in Central America: pending agenda 20 years later", held on 13 June 2007 at United Nations Headquarters, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Central American Esquipulas II Peace Agreement. Among the distinguished speakers and panellists were two of the treaty's signatories — Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica, whose courageous initiative won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987, and Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, former president of Guatemala. After the main speeches, a number of smaller panels were held on topics related to peace in Central America. The other co-sponsors of the event were the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute; (b) in September 2007, a major conference was held at Quinnipiac University on the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Schweitzer's call for an end to nuclear testing, with former United States President Jimmy Carter as a keynote speaker. Also present as panellists for educational sessions on nuclear weapons were disarmament experts from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, including Mr. Michael Cassandra. Ambassador Sergio Duarte also was in attendance, along with two atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Albert Schweitzer Institute contends that solving the problem of nuclear weapons is a corollary to supporting all the Millennium Development Goals, given that expenditures on weapons take away from expenditures on the Millennium Development Goals; (c) in October 2008, a conference was held at

Quinnipiac University with the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú to examine gender issues and indigenous rights. Panellists were provided by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The first female chief of the Cherokee nation, Wilma Mankiller, was a keynote speaker. The issues related to Millennium Development Goals: goal 1, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; goal 3, to promote gender equality and empower women; and goal 5, to promote maternal health; (d) in November 2008, the Albert Schweitzer Institute sponsored a luncheon for members of the Security Council along with the Costa Rican Embassy when Costa Rica held the rotating presidency of the Security Council. President Arias gave a speech in the Security Council about the need to enforce Article 26 of the United Nations Charter, requiring the Security Council to examine the relationship between the expenditure of arms and the lack of money for humanitarian purposes. Unfortunately, this had not been discussed in the Security Council since 1946.

## 2. America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (Special; 1985)

### I. Introduction

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST) is a private, non-profit organization promoting understanding and cooperation between Americans and the people of the Middle East and North Africa through education, information, and development assistance programmes. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AMIDEAST maintains a network of field offices in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen. A field office is currently being established in Saudi Arabia, and AMIDEAST also manages the American Language Center in Damascus for the United States Cultural Center (and maintained a field office there through November 2006). AMIDEAST demonstrates its support for the work, purposes and principles of the United Nations in the implementation of programmes that promote the development of local institutions and the improvement and expansion of educational opportunities for the region's youth.

### II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities:** (a) AMIDEAST/Lebanon sponsored Lebanese participants (via the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Professional Training Programme) to attend the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2007), as well as the fifty-second session (2008). Both sessions were held in New York; (b) AMIDEAST/Tunisia's College Club selected and prepared six Tunisian high school students, including five Youth Exchange and Study Programme (YES) alumni, to participate in the 2009 Model United Nations in Doha, Qatar. The event was organized by the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**: (a) AMIDEAST/Oman's Country Director attended the Oman-United Nations Children's Fund Annual Review Meeting of the Joint Programme Plans of Action 2008, (2008); (b) AMIDEAST/Yemen cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as part of World Refugee Day in the summer of 2007 to send a group of United States Department of

State-funded Access Micro scholarship students from Aden to the Kharaz Somali Refugee Camp. There, Access students participated in World Refugee Day ceremonies, met with and learned from Somali refugees, and established ongoing contacts, in order to promote the possibility of peaceful coexistence between Yemenis and the growing population of Somali refugees in Yemen. A United States Department of State English Language Fellow assigned to AMIDEAST/Yemen in Aden, Whitney Mirts, was also involved in the event; (c) AMIDEAST/Jordan offered training courses to UNICEF: speed reading of 30 hours in 2005 to seven participants; and fund-raising, proposal writing and a Project Management Institute course of 20 hours in 2007 to 20 participants; (d) AMIDEAST/Jordan, in cooperation with the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI), administered UNHCR scholarships for 34 Iraqi refugees to complete a Bachelor of Science degree at the German-Jordanian University in Amman, Jordan, in 2007-2008; (e) AMIDEAST/Lebanon recruited Hope Fund Scholarship Students with the assistance of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) offices in Lebanon in 2006 and 2008; (f) AMIDEAST/Lebanon's Contact and Resource Center signed a grant agreement with the USAID-funded Transparency and Accountability Grants Programme in 2008 to help people with disabilities and their families in Lebanon benefit from all the rights or services provided for by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol; (g) AMIDEAST/Lebanon was a partner in the United States Department of Labor-funded project to combat child labour through education, Alternatives to Combat Child Labour through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa, and was responsible for the regional component of the project. United Nations agencies visited/collaborated with included the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The programme culminated in a regional conference on child labour and education that took place in Cairo, Egypt, (2008); (h) AMIDEAST/Sana'a entered an agreement with the United Nations in 2007 to provide English language training for select United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) staff; (i) AMIDEAST/Syria offered 42 Test of English for International Communication tests in 2005 and 200 Test of English for International Communication tests in 2006 to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)/Golan Heights; (j) AMIDEAST/West Bank and Gaza have cooperated with United Nations agencies such as UNRWA to identify candidates to receive United States Department of State-funded English Access Micro scholarships in multiple years during the reporting period, to recruit and host the Camp Discovery Programme — a summer camp programme for youth, and provided English language professional skills training, and placement testing to UNRWA, World Health Organization (WHO), UNESCO, UNDP, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) employees.

**Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

**Goal 2 — Achieve universal primary education. Target 3**: ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. **Actions**: (a) AMIDEAST/West Bank and Gaza provided language and professional development training to 20 Palestinian teachers from UNRWA and private schools in Ramallah, Nablus, Tul-karem, and Qalqiliya through the Professional Certificate in English Teaching programme begun in 2007. In 2008, the programme was enlarged in scope to reach 400 new teachers and the 48,000 students in their classrooms; (b) AMIDEAST/West Bank and Gaza initiated, in late 2007, the USAID-

funded Model Schools Network Programme, introduced 18 West Bank schools to a student-centred, contemporary approach to teaching and learning that fosters the development of critical thinking skills and takes into consideration child development at the physical, cognitive and social levels.

## 3. Arab Organization for Human Rights (Special; 1989)

### I. Introduction

The Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) was founded in 1983 as a regional non-governmental organization that works for the defence, protection, and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Arab region, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights treaties and conventions. Its scope of activities extends to individual and collective civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. It also aims at raising public awareness regarding legal and civil rights. In 1989, AOHR obtained observer status in the Organization of African Unity's Commission for Human and People's Rights. In May 2000, AOHR signed a headquarters' agreement with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt as an international and regional non-governmental organization based in Cairo, Egypt. On 30 April 2004, AOHR obtained "Operational Relations" status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). AOHR has affiliated organizations and branches in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco (two organizations), Sudan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Yemen, Jordan, Palestine, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, and Mauritania. It also has chapters in Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. AOHR has a permanent representative in Geneva, Switzerland, to follow the work of the United Nations Office at Geneva. AOHR individual membership totals 3,860 members, extending all over Arab countries and to Arabs in countries all over the world. The AOHR budget is funded by its membership fees, donations and interests from its deposits that consist of its membership donations. It does not accept donations from political movements or governments, in order to maintain its credibility in the Arab world, owing to conceptual reasons especially related to the Arab region.

### II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**: Representatives attended the following sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva, Switzerland: sixty-first session (2005) and the sixty-second session (2006). Representatives made oral interventions regarding the human rights situation in the Arab world, especially in the occupied territories of Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon and Darfur, in the Sudan, and requested the establishment of a fact-finding mission to Palestine and Lebanon. They also attended the following sessions of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva, and made oral interventions at the following sessions: first session (2006), regarding the need to reform the treaty-body system and to seek the views of the non-governmental organizations on the work of the Council; the second session (2006); the third session (2006); the fourth session (2007); and at the fifth session (2007), oral interventions were made regarding the human rights situation in the Arab world. The Secretary General of AOHR attended the sixth session (2007), and made an oral intervention on the human rights situation in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon, under

item 4 of the agenda, and proposed the establishment of an inquiry mission regarding the Israeli aggression against the occupied Palestinian territories in Beit Hanoun. The Secretary General of AOHR also presented a written document on the deterioration of the human rights situation in Darfur, Sudan.

AOHR representatives followed the work of the Open-Ended Working Group to Consider Options Regarding the Elaboration of an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, held in Geneva: the second session (2005); the third session (2006); the fourth session (2007); and the fifth session (2008).

AOHR representatives attended, in Geneva: (a) the Workshop on Human Rights, Counter-Terrorism and States of Emergency (2005), and made an oral intervention on the need to preserve and respect human rights laws and international human rights law when taking measures to combat terrorism; (b) the sixty-sixth session (2006) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and made an oral intervention regarding the defamation of religions, and in particular the serious implications of islamophobia for the enjoyment of all rights, and requested the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism to include in his report this question; (c) the fifth session (2007) of the Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and presented an oral intervention regarding the need to study the content and scope of the substantive gaps in the existing international instrument to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The AOHR representative also requested a review of the implementation of the Durban Programme of Action by different States and the obstacles faced in achieving such implementation, and suggested initiatives and practical solutions for combating all contemporary scourges of racism; (d) meetings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, from the thirty-eighth session (2005) to the forty-seventh session (2008), and presented an oral intervention at its forty-first session (2006), regarding the need to stress the obligation of all States to include the principles stated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in three national laws and report to the Committee on actions taken in this regard; (e) the sixth session of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (2007), and presented an oral intervention on the situation of migrant workers in the Arab world; (f) the eighth session of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development (2007), and presented an oral intervention on the results of the implementation of the joint project between UNDP, OHCHR and AOHR on human rights and development that was implemented from 2003 to 2005. The AOHR representative also raised the relationship between combating extreme poverty and its direct effects on the implementation of the rights to development and the establishment of democracy.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**: The Secretary General of AOHR attended: (a) from 6 to 8 July 2005, in Turin, Italy, a workshop organized by UNDP and the European Parliament on the theme "Democracy and Reform in the Arab World", and gave a statement on the steps taken and the obstacles to such reform; (b) from 16 to 18 November 2006, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a meeting organized by the African Union for the establishment of an Early Warning Network for Preventing African Conflicts, and was elected member of the Network Executive Board; (c) October 2008, in Amman, Jordan, a regional workshop, organized by OHCHR, on the theme "Human rights during countering terrorism", and presented a research paper entitled "Effects of

Countering Terrorism on the Economic and Social Rights in the Arab Region"; (d) November 2008, in Geneva, the international conference organized by OHCHR on the theme "The cooperation between the international and regional human rights mechanisms", and presented a background paper on the human rights mechanisms in the Arab region; (e) from 23 to 24 November 2008, Geneva, a meeting organized by OHCHR, UNODC, the European Union, the International Institute for Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, in Siracusa, Italy, and the Irish Institute for Human Rights, regarding the launching of the Project for the Promotion of International Criminal Justice in Post-Conflict Fields; (f) July 2006, in Paris, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; (g) May 2008, in Casablanca, Morocco, a representative of AOHR attended a round table, organized by UNESCO, on the establishment of the Arab Cities Coalition for Countering Racism and Related Forms, and presented an oral intervention on countering racism in the Arab world; (h) December 2008, in Rabat, a representative of AOHR attended a regional workshop, organized by UNESCO, on the theme "Cultural Rights in the Arab North African States"; (i) 2005, AOHR concluded its implementation as executing agency of the regional project on human rights and human development in the Arab region in cooperation with, and financed by, UNDP and OHCHR. AOHR was requested to hold four regional events and to produce and disseminate a comprehensive Arab Human Rights Manual. The four events took place in 2003 and 2004, and four books were published after each event. The Arab Human Rights Manual (the first in the Arab region) was published in December 2005; (j) the AOHR Secretary General, who was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as a member of the International Commission of Inquiry for Darfur in 2004, concluded his mission in 2005. He and some members of its secretariat participated in the third publication of the UNDP Human Rights Development Report on freedoms and governance in the Arab region, issued in April 2005. They also participated in preparing the fourth report on Empowerment of Women in the Arab region, issued in February 2006. During 2007 and 2008, the AOHR Secretary General was a member of the Consultative Board for the UNDP Development Report on Human Security.

## 4. Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

As the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Registry, the role of the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) is to promote the fair distribution and responsible management of IP addresses and Autonomous System numbers. These resources are required for the stable and secure operation of the Internet. APNIC does this according to policies developed in an open, transparent, bottom-up policy development process. As a regional industry self-regulatory body, APNIC coordinates the development of these policies through regular APNIC meetings and online discussion forums. Policies approved by consensus at the meetings are then implemented by the APNIC secretariat and form the basis of APNIC operations. The APNIC mission statement is "Addressing the challenge of responsible Internet resource distribution in the Asia Pacific region". APNIC also ensures that there is equitable access to Internet resources, therefore allowing the Internet to grow and be used as a tool to achieve developmental goals. The most significant issue facing APNIC and the Internet community over the last four years is the imminent depletion of the remaining IPv4 address space and the transition

to IPv6. IPv6, which provides an extremely large address space, resolves the IPv4 issue, but raises a number of integration and implementation issues. APNIC has implemented a number of operational changes to assist the Asia Pacific Internet community to adopt IPv6. In particular, APNIC has focused on the needs of developing economies making this transition and heavily subsidizes related training. APNIC has a dedicated IPv6 programme manager, the training programme has developed a specific IPv6 curriculum, and APNIC supports developmental programs such as ISIF to encourage IPv6-related strategies within developing economies. APNIC is well aware of the challenges involved in the development of the Internet in developing countries, particularly in terms of human resource development. As well as conducting subsidized training, APNIC organizes and contributes to fellowship programmes for APNIC and the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies meetings. APNIC also contributes information and consultation to Network Operators' Groups in developing countries, including the Pacific Network Operators' Group and the South Asia Network Operators' Group.

## II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

**United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**: In 2005, APNIC participated in the preparations for the second phase of the World Summit as well as the final World Summit in Tunis, representing the goals of fair distribution of IP resources in the Asia Pacific region: **Second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society** *(2005, Tunis)*; **Working Group on Internet Governance** *(2005, Geneva)*; **World Summit on the Information Society PrepCom-3** *(2005, Geneva)*

**Internet Governance Forum**, APNIC was involved in the Internet Governance Forum since its inaugural meeting in 2006.

**Internet Governance Forum**, *30 October-2 November 2006, Athens, Greece*: APNIC attended to continue its commitment to the WSIS values, representing the role the addressing community plays in the ongoing development of the Internet in the Asia Pacific region.

**Internet Governance Forum**, *12-15 November 2007, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*: APNIC staff co-organized the "IPv4 to IPv6: Challenges and opportunities" workshop, where APNIC was one of the panellists. APNIC spoke on the need for stakeholders from all sectors to work together to achieve the IPv6 deployment needed for the ongoing stability of the Internet. As a member of the Number Resource Organization, APNIC contributed to the report, "Continuing cooperation: the NRO's role in Internet governance".

**Internet Governance Forum**, *3-6 December 2008, Hyderabad, India*: APNIC attended the Forum to represent the Asia Pacific Internet resource community and to highlight APNIC's role in supporting Internet development in developing economies in the region. APNIC organized the workshop on "Challenges facing Internet operators in developing countries", which examined how such challenges could be overcome. APNIC spoke on panels of workshops on the themes "Understanding Internet infrastructure: an overview of technology and terminology", "Evolution of the root server system", "Towards a code of good practice on public participation in Internet governance — building on the principles of WSIS and the Aarhus Convention" and "ICANN's Multistakeholder Model". APNIC was also featured in the closing ceremony of the Forum.

**International Telecommunications Union (ITU)**. APNIC has been an International Telecommunications Union Development Sector (ITU-D) member since 2003. APNIC was an International Telecommunications Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) member from March 2003 to March 2005. As a Development Sector member, APNIC participates in ITU meetings where APNIC's expertise in Internet resources is of use.

**International Telecommunications Union IPv6 Workshop**. *22-23 June 2005, Geneva, Switzerland*: APNIC presented, during the session on IPv6 resource management, an overview of the technical capabilities and limitations of IPv6 to help provide context to the International Telecommunications Union's explorations of public policy implications of IPv6.

**ITU Telecom Asia 2008 Forum**. *2-5 September 2008, Bangkok, Thailand*. APNIC spoke on the panel for the session "What public policy for next generation/new values?" and about the need to move to IPv6 to allow continued Internet expansion and the role public policy can have in assisting this transition.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field**: In 2005, APNIC partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme "Open Regional Dialogue on Internet Governance". This included contributing to web resources on Internet governance issues for the Asia Pacific region, as well as assisting in a regional survey on the key Internet governance issues for the Asia Pacific to prepare for the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis later that year. APNIC contributed staff resources to the APDIP office to assist with administering the "Open Regional Dialogue on Internet Governance". APNIC has worked with the Open Regional Dialogue on Internet Governance on the Pan Asia Information and Communication Technology Research and Development grants programme (see following section for more details).

**Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

**Target 8f: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications**. Pan Asia ICT research and development grants programme, 2005: APNIC, along with the United Nations Development Programme APDIP, was a funding partner for the Pan Asia ICT research and development grants programme. This project funded research on technical solutions for practical problems in the developing world. Its main objective was to build institutional research capacity in developing economies within the Asia Pacific region. In 2005, 17 projects were funded with up to $30,000 each. Diverse ranges of projects were received, including health initiatives, alternative networking techniques, crop monitoring projects, disaster avoidance systems, and a variety of open source software developments. Between 2002 and 2005, the programme received a total of 642 project proposals from 34 countries; 64 projects were funded.

**Information Society Innovation Fund, 2008**: APNIC, in conjunction with the Canadian International Development Research Centre and the Internet Society, with support of the DotAsia organization, funded the Information Society Innovation Fund programme. In addition, APNIC was the secretariat for the Fund. The Fund provided funding that helped advance local and regional initiatives that introduced, improved and applied innovative Internet and communications technologies for developing economies in the Asia Pacific region. Of the 148 applications received, 11 projects

were selected to benefit from the $30,000 grant (per project). The projects selected showcase diverse uses of ICT technology, such as mobile-based tele-health care, forensic investigation infrastructure, and localized high-performance e-mail for telecentres. In 2008, the successful project representatives were funded to attend a proposal development workshop in Hyderabad to explore simple networking strategies and establish effective collaboration among the projects and had the opportunity to attend the IGF.

**Root Domain Name System (DNS) server deployment, 2005-2008**: Making root servers available closer to Internet users has an immediate impact on the speed of DNS services, and each new deployment provides greater stability and resilience to the Internet. APNIC's support of root server deployment between 2005 and 2008 targeted developing economies in the Asia Pacific region. In 2005, eight new servers were deployed, with two in 2007 and one in 2008. Due to APNIC support of root DNS server deployment since 2002, there are now 37 root servers in the Asia Pacific region.

**Project DUMBO in Myanmar cyclone recovery, 2008**: APNIC assisted the Asian Institute of Technology to prepare technical teams for urgent duty in cyclone-ravaged Myanmar. The trainees, all Burmese nationals, were trained in networking technologies, including DUMBO, the wireless broadband network that was developed for use in situations such as natural disasters. APNIC donated money towards this project and provided key staff to help with training needs in Bangkok.

## 5. Asian Federation of Laryngectomees Association (Special; 1997)

### I. Introduction

"Laryngectomees" are people who have had their larynx or vocal chords removed as a result of laryngeal cancer. The disability in spoken-language or the loss of voice requires breathing through a tracheostoma at the base of the throat when the upper airways are blocked.

As an effective means of realizing the principles of section 1 (a) of General Assembly resolution 37/52, the Asian Federation of Laryngectomees Association (AFLA) has placed particular emphasis on achieving full and equal participation in society for those who have had disability in spoken-language due to surgical removal of their vocal chords. To this end, AFLA has held several training courses for vocalization instructors in eight locations throughout Asia. During the period November 2005 to May 2008, a total of 336 instructors were given training courses and through their efforts, over 5,000 laryngectomees were estimated to have benefited from vocalization rehabilitation in eight locations (1-Thailand, 4-Japan, 1-Indonesia, 1-India and 1-Nepal). At present, 325 instructors have been properly trained to teach esophageal speech to the laryngectomees. The instruction techniques have remarkably improved; even laryngectomy patients in serious conditions whose cancer spread over broad areas have regained their voices. The success ratio of voice recovery by laryngectomees has considerably increased to over 82 per cent due to the successful instructional techniques during this reporting period, as compared to only 75 per cent in past years.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**: A representative of AFLA attended the International Women's Day 2008 Public Forum, held on 10 March 2008, hosted by the United Nations University together with United Nations agencies in Japan.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or Headquarters**: (a) The North East Asia Symposium on 7 April 2004, together with Japan Federation of Bar Associations, an NGO with Economic and Social Council consultative status; (b) the Study Meeting for International Human Rights (the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) on 9 April 2009, hosted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations in Tokyo; (c) discussed rehabilitation of peoples with disability with Ms. Kozue Kay Nagata, Social Affairs Officer of Disability Sub-Programme Population and Social Integration Section, ESID, on 10 November 2005, at the United Nations building in Bangkok.

## 6. Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (Special; 1973)

### I. Introduction

**Aims and purposes of the organization**: Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (AWR) is a non-governmental, scientifically oriented, international association created in 1951 for the purpose of studying possible solutions to the problem of refugees and migrant workers in general, through the cooperation of experts on a variety of subjects and social workers from many countries. The association is organized in national sections and correspondents. National sections and correspondents exist in Australia, Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. AWR promotes and coordinates scientific research on refugees and migrant workers. Its aim is to contribute through its scientific findings to the search for theoretical and practical solutions to the problem. AWR activities mainly consist of researching problems related to migrations and refugees.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**: During the report period, AWR has not been able to participate as fully as it would have liked in the work of the Economic and Social Council, due to serious illnesses of the former contact person of AWR to the Council. AWR bodies will meet on the occasion of its Congress in Romania in September 2009 in order to restructure its work and responsibilities.

**Activities in support of global principles**: AWR contributed to the work of the United Nations by promoting and coordinating scientific research on refugees and migrant workers. The results of its annual international congresses, seminars, round tables, etc., were made known in the quarterly magazine *AWR Bulletin* and articles and papers on relevant subjects by leading international experts in four languages. AWR has organized an international congress every year since 1951. The 55th congress was held on the theme "Ethnic cleansing in Europe and repatriation after flight and

expulsion" (22-25 September 2005, Ljubljana, Slovenia). The commemorative speech "Ethnical cleansing and human rights in the twentieth century" was given by Dr. Danilo Tuerk, former Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations, and former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations. The 56th congress held in 2006 in Poznan, Poland, dealt with the subject "East-West migration after the EU enlargement. Stocktaking and processing for a common Europe". The 57th congress, held in 2007 in Vilnius, Lithuania, was on the subject "Migration, asylum and minorities: European and national outlooks in a new Europe". The 58th congress, held in 2008 in Rome, Italy, was on the subject "The contribution of refugees and immigrants to the building of a cultural society in the Europe and the Mediterranean Area". At the end of each congress a resolution was issued relating to the theme of the congress. Reports of the congresses, lectures and resolutions had been printed in the *AWR Bulletin*, published by the Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, Berlin. In addition, AWR's *Treaties on Migration and Refugee Problems* is also published by the Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag.

## 7. World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (Special; 1993)

### I. Introduction

The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO), founded in 1948, is an international federation of 27 non-profit organizations in 17 countries, with a membership of approximately 20,000 women with a global presence on four continents — North and South America, Europe, and Australia. The main goals of WFUWO are to uphold human rights which promote the principles of political and religious tolerance; foster the development of Ukrainian language and literature, history and fine arts to strengthen Ukrainian identity; and to support Ukraine in its efforts to build a democratic nation. Also for its member organizations to continue to provide programmes that strengthen and support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the reduction of extreme poverty, education, gender equality, environment and health.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Commission on the Status of Women**: WFUWO participated in the NGO Planning Committee for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2005 to 2007 and is an active member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, and its Subcommittee on Older Women. It participated in advocacy with the Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to introduce questions about older women into the Committee protocol. WFUWO NGO representatives participated in the annual NGO Consultation in preparation for advocacy and lobbying at and attended the following Commission sessions at United Nations Headquarters, New York: (a) the forty-ninth session (2005): WFUWO presented a statement that focused on the specific challenges of combating prostitution, trafficking and other forms of violence against women with specific recommendations (E/CN.6/2005/NGO/4); (b) the fiftieth session (2006): During this session, WFUWO endorsed the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) effort in reducing feminized poverty, ending violence against women, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, achieving gender

equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war (E/CN.6/2007/NGO/23); (c) the fifty-first session (2007); and (d) the fifty-second session (2008).

**Commission for Social Development**: (a) Forty-third session (2005): submitted a statement on advocacy to strengthen families — the foundation of social and economic advancement and cultural preservation as they try to cope with the daunting challenges of our time: globalization, economic dislocation, extreme poverty, migration and transnationalism; (b) the forty-fourth session — advocacy for eradication of extreme poverty.

**Others**: (a) informal interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with Non-Governmental Organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector on 24 June 2005. Our representative spoke on behalf of 60 NGO members of the CONGO Committee on the Rights of the Child; (b) informal interactive Hearings of the General Assembly on 12 June 2006 in New York. At the suggestion and recommendation of WFUWO, a young professional woman from Ukraine spoke about good practices in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus on the integration of students after the completion of their advanced studies abroad as teachers at universities to transmit knowledge and practices from the developed world into the culture of the countries in transition to market economies; (c) 17 February 2005 side event on "Children affected by armed conflict: reintegration into the family and community"; (d) 2 March 2007, a parallel event coinciding with the Commission on the Status of Women was co-sponsored by the NGO Committee on the theme "Non-violent resolution of conflict within the family: special focus on the girl child"; (e) WFUWO participated in all Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO) annual conferences 2005 through 2008 and on the Planning Committee of the Conferences, and attended a majority of the weekly briefings at United Nations Headquarters; (f) WFUWO participated in the 61st DPI/NGO Conference in Paris (2008), held on theme "Reaffirming human rights for all: the Universal Declaration at 60".

**Activities in support of global principles**: Several articles were written informing the public about the work of the United Nations. For example, an article published in the newspaper *Ukrainian Weekly* on 26 March 2006, entitled "NGO workshop at United Nations focuses on families and poverty"; 31 August 2008, "Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"; the special issue of the organization's journal *Ukrainian Women in The World* (2007) was devoted to the work of the United Nations. The WFUWO NGO representative was chosen as one of the senior editors of the "2008 NGO Framework for Action Report — Climate Causus.net", on which the editorial group worked for a year with input and participation of NGOs. The report was received by Under-Secretary-General Kio Akasaka on 1 January 2009, on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

**Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals**: WFUWO contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the following geographical regions: Eastern Europe and Latin America.

**Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**: (a) 9,027 elderly women were given packages and stipends; (b) 15,700 orphanages received clothing and financial help; (c) 21,435 children in elementary schools received nutritious breakfasts.

**Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education (because of the unique needs in countries in transition all levels of education were supported)**: 17,205 children received stipends.

**Goal 5: Improve maternal health**: two mammography machines were purchased to service the areas of Lviv and Kherson, Ukraine, and educational material was published on early cancer detection. The target is to reduce the mortality ratio of women dying specifically of breast cancer and related diseases.

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## Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

**Note by the Secretary-General**

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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# 1. Center for Reproductive Rights (Special; 1997)

## I. Introduction

The Center for Reproductive Rights (the Center) is a non-profit legal advocacy organization that uses the law to advance reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right that all Governments are legally obligated to protect, respect and fulfil. We envision a world where every woman is free to decide whether and when to have children; where every woman has access to the best reproductive health care available; and where every woman can exercise her choices without coercion or discrimination. Using international human rights law to advance the reproductive freedom of women, the Center has strengthened reproductive health laws and policies across the globe by working with more than 100 organizations in 45 nations including countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations during the reporting period

**Support for the work of the United Nations treaty monitoring bodies**: The Center for Reproductive Rights regularly submitted shadow letters to various United Nations treaty monitoring bodies. Our letters supplement the periodic reports of Governments, thereby playing an essential role in providing a credible and reliable independent source of information.

**Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**: The Center submitted seven shadow letters providing supplementary information to the Committee. These letters addressed reproductive rights in the following countries: El Salvador, for consideration during the thirty-seventh session in November 2006; Mexico (co-authored by the Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida) for consideration during the thirty-sixth session in May 2006; Nepal, for consideration during the thirty-eighth session in April/May 2007; Brazil, submitted to the fortieth pre-sessional working group in May 2008 and the Philippines, Kenya and Nicaragua, for consideration during the forty-first session in November 2008.

In addition, in October 2008, staff members from the Center participated in a joint lunch briefing with the Committee, which focused primarily on the situation of reproductive rights in Kenya, the Philippines and Nicaragua.

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**: The Center submitted 10 shadow letters covering the following countries: China, Mexico and the Philippines (co-authored by EnGendeRights, the Reproductive Rights Resource Group Philippines and the Health and Development Initiatives Institute) for consideration during the thirty-sixth session in August 2007; Malaysia, for consideration during the thirty-fifth session in May 2006; Thailand, for consideration during the thirty-fourth session in January 2006; Brazil and Kenya, for consideration during the thirty-ninth session in July 2007; India, for consideration during the thirty-seventh session in January 2007; Nigeria, for consideration during the forty-first session in June/July 2008 and Ecuador, for consideration during the forty-second session in October 2008.

In May 2007, the Center hosted a private briefing with members of CEDAW. The meeting was intended to provide Committee members with information on key

reproductive rights issues and trends and also to discuss the use of the Committee's concluding observations in our litigation and advocacy efforts. In addition, in July 2008, the Center hosted a briefing for CEDAW to discuss the current trends in reproductive rights.

In November 2007, the Center together with our Brazilian partner Citizen's Advocacy for Human Rights, filed the case *Alyne da Silva v. Brazil* before CEDAW. This case centres on the issue of avoidable maternal mortality in Brazil.

**Human Rights Committee**: The Center submitted two shadow letters to supplement the work of the Human Rights Committee during its review of the following countries: Kenya (co-authored by the Federation of Women Lawyers-Kenya) for consideration during the eighty-third session in March 2005 and Costa Rica, for consideration during the eighty-ninth session in March 2007.

**Committee on the Rights of the Child**: The Center submitted five shadow letters covering the following countries: Nepal, for consideration during the thirty-ninth session in May 2005; the Russian Federation, for consideration during the fortieth session in September 2005; Lithuania (co-authored by the Lithuanian Family Planning Association) for consideration during the forty-first session in January 2006; Colombia, for consideration during the forty-second session in May 2006 and Kenya (co-authored by the Federation of Women Lawyers-Kenya) for consideration during the forty-fourth session in January 2007.

**Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations**

**Human Rights Council**: In November 2007, the Center submitted letters to the Human Rights Council on Brazil, Ecuador, India and the Philippines, which were up for review during the first session of the universal periodic review. In April 2008, the Center co-hosted an NGO briefing focusing on reproductive rights in Ecuador, Brazil and the Philippines. Also for the universal periodic review, in September 2008, we submitted a shadow letter on Nigeria and in November 2008, together with the University of Diego Portales, we submitted a shadow letter on Chile.

Along with other NGOs, the Center worked successfully with the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health to encourage the Council to hold its first panel on maternal mortality and women's rights.

**Commission on the Status of Women**: In February 2005, during the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and on the occasion of Beijing+10, the Center hosted a panel discussion and workshop, "Giving Beijing the force of law: legal strategies for implementing the commitments of Beijing". In August 2008, the Center submitted two letters to the Commission covering, respectively, maternal mortality in Nigeria and the reproductive health needs of women affected by armed conflict in Nepal. Also, in September 2008, the Center filed a communication to the Commission regarding the case of a pregnant woman in Madhya Pradesh, India, who was denied medical assistance at the time of delivery due to her HIV-positive status.

United Nations agencies: Continuing a partnership begun in March 2003, the Center provided summaries of legal and policy developments in the area of reproductive rights to the United Nations Population Fund for an electronic newsletter for policymakers. Since 2006, the director of the Center's International Legal

Programme has served as an expert member of the Advisory Committee on Gender of the Department of Reproductive Health of the World Health Organization. In October 2006, a member of the Center's staff participated in a high-level United Nations consultation on the new joint statement on female genital mutilation, convened by WHO.

**Publications to support the work of the United Nations**: While all of the Center's publications aim to reinforce the human rights norms adopted at the United Nations and in regional bodies, two in particular are worth noting. In November 2008, the Center launched the updated edition of our signature publication, *Bringing Rights to Bear*, which analyses the comments, statements and recommendations produced by the United Nations treaty monitoring bodies and examines their potential for advancing and protecting women's reproductive rights.

In September 2008, on the occasion of a United Nations high-level event convened by the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to renew commitments to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Center produced the briefing paper "Using the Millennium Development Goals to realize women's reproductive rights".

## 2. Cooperativa Tecnico Scientifica di Base (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

Cooperativa Tecnico Scientifica di Base (COBASE) is a scientific independent non-profit organization which was constituted in 1978 by a team of researchers and professionals. COBASE is accredited to participate in the work of various international programmes and conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on the Information Society, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. COBASE has been nominated as delegate of several delegations of the Government of Italy to the United Nations and the European Union. The Italian Minister of the Environment has nominated COBASE as a member of the World Commission on Environment and Development. The organization works with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) on issues related to world food security, climate change and biodiversity.

**The aims of the organization**: (a) to produce research, studies, publications and projects in the fields of sustainability: environment, food security, sustainable management of natural resources and renewable energy, biodiversity, climate change, water, sanitation and human settlements; to plan the fight against extreme poverty and hunger, and energetic and environmental systems using e-governance and capacity-building projects; (b) to formulate new strategies for cooperation with developing countries with a specific focus on industrial protection and security systems; (c) to formulate a cultural diversity-oriented approach to training and

education offline and online using databases and techniques for accessibility by the disabled and for surmounting the digital divide and the knowledge divide. COBASE also developed specific competencies in foodstuff production and sustainability; restoration and recovery of environmental, agricultural and architectonic patrimony; codes of Practice; renewable energy in agriculture; security and quality-control Procedures; food security; the environment and desertification; biological and cultural diversity systems; traditional knowledge systems and sustainable development Systems. COBASE is the promoter of the international projects "Diversity as a resource" and "Poverty knowledge" with the document entitled "Resolution of Rome: guidelines for the protection of cultural diversity" which encourages the appreciation of the importance of cultural diversity. COBASE has planned and realized air, water, electric and solar installations. COBASE has built several solar greenhouses and has been issued several patents by Italian Ministry of Industry. COBASE has developed environmental traffic plans. In the last few years COBASE has concentrated its research on the subject of biological and cultural diversity from a scientific and technical point of view and specialized in traditional knowledge systems.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization would have participated more in the implementation of United Nations programmes were it not for limited funds and staff (all volunteers), which made attendance at international meetings very difficult.

### Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

**2005**: COBASE organized in Rome the food security campaign "Diversity as resource. Traditional knowledge for food security". This event was sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry and supported by the President of the Italian Republic and was a part of the official celebrations of World Food Day. Representatives of the organization attended in Rome the following meetings, all related to the food security and hunger eradication problem: (a) World Food Day celebrations at FAO headquarters; (b) FAO Council, 129th session; (c) FAO Conference, thirty-third session.

**2006**: COBASE organized in Rome a workshop on "investing in agriculture in the Syrian Arab Republic: agro-food security in the Mediterranean area, where the results of the COBASE project on the impact of desertification, watershed management and wildfires on rural development and poverty in the Latakia Governorate of Syria were presented. This event was sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry and supported by the President of the Italian Republic, and was a part of the official celebrations of World Food Day 2005. Representatives of the organization attended the following meetings: (a) "Migration and development. Challenges and opportunities for Euro-African relationships" organized by the Society for International Development; (b) World Congress on Communication for Development, organized by The Communication Initiative Network, FAO and the World Bank.

**2007**: COBASE organized in Rome the international seminar "Taking care of one's health with food. The right to a diet". This event was sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry and supported by the President of the Italian Republic and was a

part of the official celebrations of World Food Day 2007. Representatives of the organization attended the 20th World Energy Congress in Rome.

**2008**: COBASE organized in Rome the international seminar "Diversity as resource. Nutrition, knowledge, communication, rights". This event was sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry and supported by the President of the Italian Republic and was a part of the official celebrations of World Food Day 2008. Representatives attended the following meetings in Rome, all related to implementing the programme of work on terrestrial and marine protected areas and biodiversity protection problems: (a) second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas; (b) thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; (c) FAO Technical Meeting of the National Correspondents to the Global Forest Resources Assessment; (d) Commission on Sustainable Development: sixteenth session (New York).

Furthermore, representatives attended the Durban Review Conference and its preparatory process in Geneva.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**

The Association is the promoter of international projects on environmental and economic risks and sustainability management that, following an interdisciplinary approach and new strategies, propose to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and ensure sustainability. Among many, we note the following: (a) the project in the Syrian Arab Republic mentioned above; (b) the workshop "Risks and sustainability of land resources: the case study of Latakia", Syria; (c) the project "Communication and e-learning for sustainability", Tunis; (d) the elaboration of the project "Integrated and sustainable resources management in Syria" that has been approved by the Minister of Environment and Local Administration of the Syrian Arab Republic; (e) the elaboration of the project "Drought early warning system and network" that has been presented to the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of Syria for approval and to the Governments of Jordan, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates; (f) the elaboration of the project "Participatory development of Al-Badia", that has been presented to the General Commission for Al-Badia Management and Development, Syria, for approval; elaboration of the project "Diversity as resource. Nutrition, knowledge, communication, rights"; elaboration of the project "Poverty knowledge".

**Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

COBASE developed the project "The factory of baobab. Taking care of one's health with food in Nigeria", with the Government of Nigeria. The project is a sustainable development and technical assistance project for the transformation of baobab, cassava and other plants from basic commodities into foodstuff, medicine and energy products. The programme meets the indications of goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) with the organization of research and planning laboratories in high-risk areas.

## 3. Citizens for Decent Housing (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

Citizens for Decent Housing (CiDeH) is a non-profit organization established in 2001, which focuses on solving problems related to land and housing through citizens' campaigns based on research and knowledge about policy. The purpose of CiDeH is to increase citizens' awareness about their habitation and create a strong network among citizens, scholars, professionals and related institutes. Recently, CiDeH has been developing an international networking programme with NGOs in Asian countries with a focus on citizens' housing issues, especially access to welfare housing. One activity in the programme is supporting Asian NGOs' activities related to housing issues with a grant.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

CiDeH did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, nor in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it focused its activities on research for alternatives for Korean housing issues (homelessness, urban planning, redevelopment of urban areas), improvement of public housing policy and increasing welfare in public housing.

#### Other activities

During the reporting period: (a) local government housing and welfare development and evaluation of indicators for evaluating research (January 2005), sponsored by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation of the Republic of Korea; (b) residential housing construction in Inchon, Republic of Korea (May 2005), sponsored by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation of the Republic of Korea, the Inchon Development Institute, the *Inchon Ilbo* newspaper, the *Gyeongin Ilbo* newspaper and ICN Inchon Broadcasting; (c) research on self-sufficiency in public housing complexes (July 2005), sponsored by the Korea Housing Corporation; (d) programme "Mother's handmade food" (July 2005 to December 2008, twice a year). The purpose of the programme was to provide lunches to children whose parents are working during school vacations (60 days per year) in public housing complexes; (e) improved the housing and welfare measures of the National Housing Fund Seminar, sponsored by the National Housing Fund of the Construction and Transportation Committee of the National Assembly (September 2005); (f) seminar "Rental housing insurance system" (April 2006); (g) project "Improving the city environment for the disabled" (August 2006-December 2008), sponsored by the Korea Land Corporation Making Green Social Committee; (h) ecological residential complex ideas competition (March/April 2007), sponsored by the Pides Development Company; (i) research on increasing the resettlement ratio in the redevelopment of a new town (May 2007), sponsored by the Construction and Transportation Committee of the National Assembly; (j) Asian Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Network for Adequate Housing (ANAH), first (2007) and second (2008) sessions, sponsored by the Korea Housing Corporation and the May 18 Memorial Foundation; (k) social service workers' programme in public rental housing complexes, sponsored by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation; (l) pilot project of ANAH in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (2008); (m) The

Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, the Korea Housing Corporation, CiDeH and the Ministry of Labour agreed to proceed with the "Pilot programme for social enterprises to create jobs and businesses" (2008); (n) programme to support poor people during the winter season (2008), sponsored by the Korea Housing Corporation.

The above activities were in line with Millennium Development Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty).

## 4. Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

The aim of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) is to reduce crime and uplift society through restorative justice. Its actions are directed towards raising public awareness of both the problems and the potential in the world's criminal justice systems. This includes advocacy for major reforms and for investment in social and economic development of marginalized persons. The reporting period has seen a major expansion of the international efforts by CURE. It now has chapters in 33 countries and contacts in 89 countries.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**2006**: Presented a verbal statement at the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women titled "Rehabilitative justice for women in prison", calling on States to establish a rehabilitation and re-entry task force or other relevant convening authority to examine ways to establish or secure resources and funding for programmes and policies to promote family preservation and lower recidivism rates for returning women prisoners and to minimize the harmful effects of incarceration on families and communities.

**2007**: (a) Visited, for the NGO Committee for Social Development, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations to discuss the Committee's survey of effective practices for promoting employment and decent work; education of the poor, and prisoner rehabilitation; (b) Provided a PowerPoint presentation to the NGO Committee titled "Crime, the incarcerated, and social development", explaining the roots of crime in poverty and a lack of social development.

**2008**: (a) CURE submitted a written statement to the forty-sixth session of the Committee for Social Development, titled "Poverty, prisons, and social development", citing examples of both prisoner abuse and illustrative rehabilitation programmes; (b) CURE presented its report to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States. This included data on human rights concerns, notable rehabilitation programmes, and recommendations for criminal justice reform in the Americas.

#### Other activities

**2005**: Worked with about 100 volunteer activists in 30 countries of the western hemisphere to collect data on prisons and justice in those countries, including issues of human rights, prisoner abuse, health and education.

**2006**: Produced and distributed the 112-page book *Dignity of the Individual* reporting on our evaluation of the prisons and justice in 35 countries in North, South and Central America and the Caribbean.

**2007**: Produced and distributed a 150-page second edition of *Dignity of the Individual* in the languages of each country (Spanish, Portuguese, French and English).

**2008**: CURE made a PowerPoint presentation to the NGO Committee for Social Development titled "Employability and restorative programmes", citing the needs of incarcerated persons with little education and alcohol or drug addictions, and citing examples of job-skill development in prisons.

## 5. Cultural Survival (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

Cultural Survival (CS) is a non-profit organization that has partnered since 1972 with indigenous groups around the world to secure and protect their rights under international and national law; ensure their full and effective participation in the political, economic and social life of the country in which they live; and to retain their lands, resources, languages and cultures. The organization currently is working with indigenous peoples in Guatemala, Panama, Kenya, Brazil and the United States, and is promoting indigenous peoples' rights at the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In addition to its advocacy and empowerment activities, Cultural Survival works to increase global understanding of indigenous peoples' rights, cultures and concerns. The organization publishes the award-winning magazine *Cultural Survival Quarterly* and maintains the world's largest and most respected archive of materials about indigenous peoples on its website: www.cs.org. In addition, through its website and e-newsletter, the organization educates the public and advocacy volunteers about violations of indigenous peoples' rights, and solicits their involvement in letter-writing campaigns.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**

Cultural Survival played an active role each year in the annual sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: (a) participated in Permanent Forum sessions; (b) provided free copies of Cultural Survival publications, including the *Cultural Survival Quarterly* and Voices (a newsletter for indigenous peoples), to delegates participating in the Permanent Forum; (c) hosted official side events including: American Indian/Native Hawai'ian language revitalization: bringing indigenous languages home through community-based programmes (2008); Exercising rights — good practice: a session on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Broadcasting human rights to indigenous communities: a session on the use of community radio in promoting human rights information (2009).

Cultural Survival played an active role in promoting the adoption by the United Nations Human Rights Council, Economic and Social Council and General

Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Specific activities included: (a) preparation in 2006 of a special edition of Voices, in four languages, in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Caucus, that focused on the importance of adopting the declaration and addressed specific concerns of Member States; (b) a multi-year education campaign directed at Member States to encourage support for the declaration.

Cultural Survival submitted reports to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council regarding State practice in relation to respect for the rights of indigenous peoples. To date, Cultural Survival has submitted reports for the Working Group's consideration on the following States' practices: Ecuador (2007), Morocco (2007), South Africa (2007), Belize (2008), Guatemala (2008), Japan (2008) and New Zealand (2008).

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**

In 2005, Cultural Survival co-hosted, along with the University of Arizona College of Law, the United Nations Expert Seminar on Implementation of National Legislation and Jurisprudence Concerning Indigenous Peoples' Rights: Experiences from the Americas. The outcome of this seminar was widely distributed to States and to indigenous participants at the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2006. Since 2005, Cultural Survival has provided in-depth information to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people on situations and cases involving violations of the rights of indigenous peoples on which Cultural Survival has worked.

**Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

**Goal 3: Gender equality**: (a) In 2005 published a special edition of the *Cultural Survival Quarterly* entitled "Women the world must hear" which featured the voices and concerns of indigenous women who face "double discrimination" as indigenous people and as women. Since that time, Cultural Survival has continued to profile indigenous women in a special feature in each issue of the magazine; (b) Partnered with two Maasai development organizations — Maasai Education Discovery and the Simba Maasai Outreach Organization — both of which provide education to girls, particularly those who seek an education rather than being pressured into marriage at very young ages.

**Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (targets 1 and 3)**: In 2007 and 2008 produced and distributed 91 radio programmes about health (including HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) to community radio stations in 168 villages in Guatemala.

**Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability (targets 1 and 3)**: (a) In 2005 published a special edition of the *Cultural Survival Quarterly* entitled *Water Rights and Indigenous Peoples*; (b) In 2008 published a special edition of the *Cultural Survival Quarterly* entitled *Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples* which was widely disseminated to the media and to indigenous peoples' organizations worldwide.

**Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development (target 5)**: (a) A signature feature of Cultural Survival's partnerships with indigenous peoples helped in building networks that linked isolated indigenous groups that have similar problems with one another so that they benefited from shared information, problem-solving techniques, resources and training. Cultural Survival's Guatemala Radio Programme, a network of 168 community radio stations in Guatemala broadcast to over 1 million indigenous Maya, provided the stations with training, radio content, equipment and management advice. With this support, the individual stations broadcast news, local music, Mayan language cultural programmes, and public service content on environmental protection, health, democratic participation and sustainable development. Cultural Survival is now constructing an Internet-based distribution platform to improve the radio stations' access to content; (b) In 2008 CS constructed an Internet-based "virtual network" for endangered Native American language revitalization programmes based in the United States. This new platform enabled the programmes to share language revitalization methodologies and teaching techniques, fund-raising strategies, support services, and other information so that each programme progressed without having to "reinvent the wheel".

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## Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

**Note by the Secretary-General**

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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# 1. Federation of American Scientists (Special; 2005)

## I. Introduction

The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) provides timely, non-partisan technical analysis on complex global issues that hinge on science and technology. Priding itself on agility and an ability to bring together people from many disciplines and organizations, the organization often addresses critical policy topics that are not well covered by other organizations. FAS projects are organized under three main project areas: strategic security, learning technologies and building technologies.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

### Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

(a) Missions for Nuclear Weapons, November 2005, Carnegie Institute for International Peace Washington, DC, United States of America. Presentation "Missions for nuclear weapons"; (b) Paths to Zero, September 2008, Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, CA, United States of America. FAS hosted a symposium discussing United States nuclear weapons policy in the twenty-first century; (c) Intergovernmental seminar on Man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS) in East Africa, July 2008, Regional Centre on Small Arms, Nairobi. Gave two presentations on shoulder-fired missile proliferation and control at first intergovernmental seminar on MANPADS in East Africa; (d) International trends of production, trade, usage and consumption of ammunition of small arms and light weapons, March 2009, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. FAS gave a presentation on transparency in United States small arms ammunition exports to police and law enforcement officials from the region; (e) First Regional Seminar on MANPADS, July 2008, Nairobi. FAS gave two presentations on the threat from MANPADS and the importance of transfer controls to preventing diversion and misuse to officials from member States of the Regional Centre on Small Arms.

Representatives attended the following meetings: (a) 2007: related to nuclear energy: American Physical Society Annual Meeting, Colorado, March; The International Control of Nuclear Energy, University of California School of Public Policy and Department of Nuclear Engineering, California, September; (b) 2008: related to new technologies in building materials and green energy: International Engineering and Construction Conference, Irvine, CA, August.

### Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization did not participate in United Nations activities because it focused on independent, ongoing projects begun and implemented by FAS. Additionally, the organization was likewise focused on expanding its practical knowledge on certain United Nations goals in order that it might be most useful in achieving said aims.

**Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

The organization contributed to the Goals in the following countries: United States, China, Turkey, Kenya and Switzerland.

**Goal 7**: Ensure environmental sustainability. **Target 1**: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources: (a) Environmental and Energy Study Institute Congressional Briefing, May 2008, Washington, D.C., United States of America. Briefing on High Performance Manufactured Housing to congressional staff focusing on the Mississippi Cottage Alternative Housing Pilot Program Project; (b) National Symposium on Building Technology, May 2007, Ankara. White paper and presentation on Energy-efficient/earthquake-resistant building technologies. Audience-representatives of residential and commercial construction industry from throughout Turkey and neighbouring countries; (c) Habitat for Humanity, December 2006, Mobile, AL, United States of America. Led, directed and started construction of two model homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Mobile County demonstrating improved construction technologies for more energy-efficient, durable, affordable housing post-Katrina; (d) United States-China Green Energy Conference, November 2009, Beijing. Presented FAS work on safe, energy-efficient housing and emergency relief housing during a session on Rebuilding after the Sichuan Earthquake.

## 2. Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (Special; 1997)

### I. Introduction

Founded in 1931, the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit corporation that serves as an umbrella network linking independent American and international volunteer organizations around the world. FAWCO is a network of 73 organizations in 38 countries in six continents, with a combined membership of over 15,000 individuals. Since its founding, FAWCO has been a philanthropic organization of volunteers serving and raising money for charities around the world. Its members are involved in activities related to education, the environment, health, ageing and human rights issues, particularly for women and children. It has been a recognized NGO since 1995 and received special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1997. Since that time, it has greatly expanded its United Nations-related activities. It actively endorses the United Nations and has been enthusiastically supporting the Millennium Development Goals with several projects, including "NetWorks", a programme to raise money for insecticide-treated bed nets, and tree-planting programmes which will be discussed in further detail later in the report. FAWCO's United Nations NGO activities are highlighted on FAWCO's website at www.fawco.org and http://ngofawco.org and http://ngo.fawco.org/malaria.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

### Participation in United Nations conferences and meetings

**2005**: (a) The Director and the local representative attended the 58th Annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations conference, "Our Challenge — Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal" in September in New York; (b) the Director attended the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights in April in Geneva, and participated in a statement regarding "Ageing and Rights and the Older Person".

**2006**: (a) Joined a select group for a health advisory panel to the World Health Organization in honour of its work related to malaria prevention. FAWCO's NetWorks programme was featured in its publication as a model initiative; (b) the Director, local New York representative and youth representatives participated in the 59th Annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations conference entitled, "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnership for Human Security and Sustainable Development", in September in New York.

**2007**: (a) The Director and the New York representative attended the 60th Annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations conference, "Climate Change: How it Impacts Us All", in September in New York; (b) Four representatives attended the 23rd General Assembly of CONGO (The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations), in December in Geneva. Brochures were distributed related to the Eleanor Roosevelt Task Force, honouring Eleanor Roosevelt's role in the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**2008**: (a) In February, representatives from FAWCO's Vienna organization attended a forum entitled "Campaign against Trafficking of Children" sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna; (b) Directors attended the 61st Annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference on the theme "Reaffirming Human Rights: The Universal Declaration at 60", held in September at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization headquarters in Paris; informational brochures related to the Eleanor Roosevelt Task Force, the website and the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration were distributed; (c) the Director met with Shamina de Gonzaga, Chair of the Department of Public Information conference, in April 2008, in Geneva, to discuss pre-conference planning and preparations for the conference in Paris later that year.

**Attendance at regular United Nations-related meetings**: Being a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (a committee of CONGO), FAWCO representatives attend its meetings regularly in New York and Geneva, and served as Secretary for this committee in Geneva. It is a member of the NGO Family Committee in New York and the NGO Committee on Human Rights in Geneva. Its representatives participated in meetings of the NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva and attend DPI briefings in New York.

**Work with United Nations-related bodies and committees**: In 2007, FAWCO joined the Working Group on the Girl Child of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women-Geneva and helped publish for the fifty-first session of the Committee on the Status of Women a comprehensive 32-page report entitled, "A Girl's Right to Live: Female Feticide and Girl Infanticide". Also, as a member of the same working

group, it signed a statement to reaffirm the rights of the girl child. In addition, FAWCO has joined written interventions on "Girls' Education" addressing discrimination in education. FAWCO continues to advocate for and raise awareness about children's rights and women's rights. Each year, members were asked to write to the United States Senate and urge ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. FAWCO regularly promoted participation of its members in the annual United Nations Development Fund for Women campaign to "Say No to Violence against Women." In 2007, FAWCO joined several other NGOs to form the Eleanor Roosevelt Task Force to honour Eleanor Roosevelt for her work as Chair of the committee that drew up the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. FAWCO agreed to design and host a website devoted to Eleanor Roosevelt at www.erooseveltuhdr.org, which has biographical information about Mrs. Roosevelt's life, information about the Universal Declaration and other key human rights documents, as well as events related to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration. FAWCO participated in the writing and designing of a bilingual booklet devoted to Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration. FAWCO donated scholarship money to the Eleanor Roosevelt Girls' Leadership Workshop to encourage young women to become social activists. In December 2008, FAWCO participated in the design of and fund-raising for a plaque for Eleanor Roosevelt and the Commission on Human Rights that was dedicated by the Mayor of Geneva along with other United Nations dignitaries at the Palais des Nations, United Nations headquarters in Geneva.

**Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals**: For its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2005, FAWCO adopted a special Millennium Development Goal challenge to raise $75,000 for that year. This would be the equivalent of buying one insecticide-treated bed net for malaria prevention for each individual member of the organization. Our clubs loved fund-raising for this programme, and to date have raised $165,885. To ensure that all the money went for nets and malaria prevention, FAWCO partnered with BioVision, a Swiss foundation doing the only large-scale malaria field control projects in the world: BioVision projects in Malindi and Nyabondo, Kenya, address malaria prevention (goals 4, reduce child mortality, 5, Improve maternal health and 6, Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases), using ecologically friendly pest control (goal 7, Ensure environmental sustainability), and educate and empower women (goal 3). FAWCO sponsored BioVision's *Organic Farmer* magazine distributed to over 100,000 people a month in rural Africa showing how to improve local farming techniques and locally appropriate health information. FAWCO has been involved in supporting tree planting and reforestation related to goal 7 on environmental sustainability. In 1995, FAWCO started a massive tree-planting effort in Casablanca, Morocco, now called the FAWCO Millennium Forest. This project was written up as an Millennium Development Goal "success story" for having planted over 30,000 trees. In 2007, FAWCO joined the United Nations Environment Programme's "Plant for the Planet" and the "Billion Tree Campaign." FAWCO's Environmental Committee issued a "One Member, One Tree" challenge. FAWCO now has tree-planting projects under way in Scotland and the Woodlands Trust in the United Kingdom, Greece, and Toledo, Ohio, in the United States. Every year the FAWCO philanthropic arm, the FAWCO Foundation, donated small development grants to charities and NGOs making a difference in the world. Most of the recipients are organizations doing work related to the Millennium Development Goals on poverty reduction, education

and health concerns, with an emphasis on helping women and children. The following is a summary of recent grants given over the past four years: (a) 2005 Development Grants of $3,000 were given for obstetric fistula surgeries in Mali; malnutrition assistance in the United Republic of Tanzania; Girls Rescue in Kenya; Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Antigua and Barbuda; Madagascar Support for Children's Literacy; and a women's water project in Kenya; (b) 2006 FAWCO Development Grants of $3,000 were given to Hope's Promise Orphan Ministries in Namibia; SOMA Home for Girls in India; Lubumbashi Orphanage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Malo Eye in Kenya; and Radio Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina; (c) 2007 FAWCO Development Grants of $3,500 each were donated to the Lambs Project in Burkina Faso; Korogocho HIV/AIDS Home Care Centre in Nairobi; Women's Hope International in Chad and Ethiopia; Arche de Noe in Bujumbura; Integrated Bio Farming Technologies for the Blind and Handicapped in Sebete, Ethiopia; Jumpstart for Orphans in Zambia; and the Silk of Hope Project in Cambodia; (d) 2008 Development Grant recipients of $3,500 each were given to a primary school project in Assumer, Morocco; Peaceful Home for children orphaned by AIDS in Nairobi; Heart to Heart for surgeries in Shanghai, China; Mayday, Mayday shelter programme for children in Carei, Romania; Grandma-2-Grandma helping those raising AIDS-affected children in the United Republic of Tanzania; food for refugees in Athens; scholarships for girls in Manila, the Philippines and Women for Girls — the Mill Project in Senegal. For more information on the development grants, see www.fawcofoundation.org. In addition to the development grants, FAWCO club members around the world volunteered their time to raise money for hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps, soup kitchens, shelters for abused women, and many other local civic organizations. FAWCO is proud to have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and to support the United Nations.

## 3. Fridtjof Nansen Institute (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

The Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) is a non-profit, independent institute engaged in research on international environmental, energy and resource management politics. The Institute seeks to maintain a multidisciplinary approach, with its main emphasis on political science, economics and international law. It collaborates extensively with other institutions in Norway and abroad.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Generally, research work performed by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute contributed to capacity-building and knowledge base which decision makers used regarding environmental and development matters. To conduct such research, FNI researchers attended, observed, participated in and organized workshops and gathered information needed for research projects which led to dissemination of information and capacity-building for decision makers in Norway and internationally.

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**

FNI participated at: (a) Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in May 2008 in Bonn, Germany. FNI co-organized a side event entitled "Agricultural Biodiversity: Implementing Farmers' Rights in Practice"; (b) Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil; (c) Fifth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in October 2007 in Montreal, Canada. FNI organized a side event entitled "Beyond Access: What You Need to Know About the User Side of ABS"; (d) Fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity in January/February in Granada, Spain; (e) Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Rome, Italy, June 2007; (f) First Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), June 2006, Madrid, Spain. Co-organized a side event entitled "Realizing Farmers' Rights under the ITPGRFA"; (g) Second Session of the Governing Body of ITPGRFA, October 2007, Rome. Co-organized a side event entitled "Realization of Farmers' Rights and the Role of the Governing Body"; (h) Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2007 at Bali, Indonesia, and 2008 in Poznan, Poland; (i) In the years 2005–2008, representatives attended a number of meetings of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), including General Assemblies and meetings of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents and the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore; (j) Chaired (and other FNI personnel participated in the Organizing Committee) of The Trondheim/United Nations Conference on Ecosystems and people — Biodiversity for development — the road to 2010 and beyond, October/November 2007, Trondheim, Norway, and authored the *Chairman's Report* published later that year by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management; (k) Co-chaired the Theme Forum on Biodiversity and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment workshop in Stavanger, Norway, May 2006, and co-authored the *Chairman's Report* from the workshop published by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2007. The workshop focused on the role of natural resource management by local communities and indigenous peoples in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and actions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; (l) Director has acted as Goodwill Ambassador for the Convention on Migratory Species since his appointment in March 2006, and chaired an international expert seminar organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi in April entitled "Avian Influenza, the Environment and Migratory Birds"; (m) First meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for Capacity-Building for the Implementation of ITPGRFA, May 2008, Bonn, to advise on topics related to farmers' rights.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**

In the years 2004-2006 FNI carried out the research projects (a) Animal Genetic Resources: Legal Regulation of Aspects of Property Rights to Animal Genes, Genetic Resources, Breeding and Related Knowledge in cooperation with Wageningen University and Research Centre (the Netherlands) and the International

Livestock Research Institute (Ethiopia). The project was commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and resulted in a number of publications; (b) Building Capacity for the Clean Development Mechanism in China: CDM Policy Building Support in cooperation with the Research Centre for Sustainable Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The project was commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and resulted in three reports submitted to UNDP; (c) Served as member of a panel of expert advisers appointed by FAO to assist and support an independent evaluation of FAO Corporate Strategy B1, conducted in the first six months of 2008.

**Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals**: (a) In May 2008 FNI launched the *Farmers' Rights Website — Resource Pages for Decision-makers and Practitioners* to support the realization of farmers' rights as they are addressed in ITPGRFA; (b) Co-hosted an informal international consultation on farmers' rights in Lusaka, September 2007, in preparation for the Second Session of the Governing Body of ITPGRFA; (c) Since 2007 has organized annual seminars on the international climate change negotiations held within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change framework, with a focus mainly on how Norway can contribute to bringing the negotiations forward; (d) In February 2006 organized an international seminar to explore ways of ensuring a successful continuation of the process of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. The seminar was held at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Lysaker, Norway, and was attended by 19 participants from 14 countries; (e) In the years 2002-2008 FNI carried out a large project entitled "The Role of the United Nations in Global Environmental Governance: Potential for Increased Effectiveness?" which analysed the roles and effectiveness of UNEP, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Global Environmental Facility and other United Nations bodies in safeguarding the global environment and promoting sustainable development. The project resulted in a large number of publications; (f) In February 2007 an FNI researcher obtained her PhD degree on the topic Governing Agrobiodiversity — Inter-Regime Conflicts on Plant Genetics and Developing Countries, which analysed how the interaction between various (United Nations-affiliated) agreements and organizations affect the management of crop genetic resources in developing countries. A revised version of the PhD dissertation was published in 2008 by a renowned international publisher; (g) In the years 2005-2008 an FNI project entitled Improving Environmental Management in Armenia facilitated competence transfer to Armenian authorities and non-governmental organizations on how to fulfil the country's obligations under international (and mostly United Nations-affiliated) environmental agreements; (h) In August 2008, FNI organized an international conference entitled "The World Ocean in Globalization: Challenges for Marine Regions", which focused mainly on the development of and challenges for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. There were 200 participants from all continents, including a large number of speakers from various United Nations bodies.

## 4. International Association for Impact Assessment (Special; 1989)

### I. Introduction

Granted consultative status in 1989, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) appointed member liaison representatives to New York, Geneva and Vienna for the current reporting period. In addition to official activities of the Association, many individual members have contributed in their professional and private capacities to the work of the United Nations.

IAIA is an educational, member-based organization for environmental professionals. Organized 29 years ago, IAIA brings together researchers, practitioners and users of various types of impact assessment from all parts of the world. As of 2008, its membership numbered more than 2,500, including affiliate membership, from over 120 nations.

**Aims of the organization**: (a) advance the state of the art of impact assessment in applications ranging from local to global. Impact assessment is an umbrella term that encompasses many specialties of assessment, all of which work together to form a comprehensive assessment. Of particular relevance to United Nations concerns have been environmental impact assessment, biodiversity assessment, social impact assessment (including gender and poverty assessment), health impact assessment and integrated impact assessment; and (b) develop international and local capability to anticipate, plan and manage the consequences of development to enhance the quality of life for all. IAIA is the only international organization whose total focus is on the perfection and promotion of the use of impact assessment in all of its forms. IAIA publishes state-of-the art materials from international experts on all specialty areas of impact assessment. IAIA annual conferences are the largest gathering of impact assessment experts and interested professionals, many of whom are employees of United Nations agencies.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

#### Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

IAIA officers and members participated in and contributed to a number of United Nations meetings over the past four years: (a) **Public Participation**. IAIA was invited to take part in a United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) workshop on public participation in strategic decision-making (December 2007, Sofia). IAIA sent a delegate to contribute to this workshop who has renown in public participation throughout Europe and who is a leader in the IAIA Section on Public Participation; (b) **Conflict and Disaster Management**. In 2006/07, the IAIA Conflict and Disaster Section leaders and the Section itself along with IAIA's Chief Executive Officer participated in the development and evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch's project to develop a rapid environmental assessment tool, FLASH, to be used immediately following natural/other disasters. In addition to written reviews and participation in meetings by the above, all IAIA members were invited via the IAIA newsletter to review and comment on the methodology; (c) **Dams and Development**. IAIA supported the UNEP Dams and Development Project (DDP), sending a delegate to meetings of the Dams and Development Forum, providing feedback and integration of IAIA and DDP efforts. IAIA delegate and past president

Peter Leonard facilitated a two-day workshop for the Fourth Dams and Development Forum Meeting on gaining public acceptance of dams (October 2005, Nairobi) and also presented the results and recommendations from the IAIA special meeting on strategic environmental assessment (SEA), "International Experience & Perspectives in SEA" (September 2005, Prague); (d) **Trans-boundary environmental impact assessment**. IAIA has been a recognized observer at the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (EIA Convention) and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA Protocol); several IAIA experts (Mr. Sadler, Mr. Dusik, and Ms. Jurkeviciute) co-authored with Mr. Bonvoisin of UNECE the Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on SEA. This manual was developed in response to a decision of the Meeting of the Signatories to the SEA Protocol in June 2004. In September 2005, IAIA dedicated a special global event in Prague solely to SEA (International Experience and Perspectives in SEA. At all IAIA annual conferences, UNECE is invited to present papers on the SEA Protocol and EIA Convention, and at the 2006 IAIA annual conference (Power, Poverty and Sustainability — the Role of Impact Assessment, May 2006, Stavanger, Norway), a full session was devoted to transboundary impact assessment; (e) **Biodiversity**. IAIA provided technical support to activities related to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Biodiversity. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity in collaboration with the IAIA Biodiversity and Ecology Section redrafted the IAIA integration framework into Convention guidelines on incorporating biodiversity considerations in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment. These guidelines were endorsed at the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (decision VIII/28): voluntary SEA guidance was also endorsed at the Conference in 2006. These guidelines were also endorsed by the parties to the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species. IAIA biodiversity expert Treweek provided technical input on the inclusion of biodiversity to a UNEP manual on integrated assessment; (f) **Health**. IAIA maintains a memorandum of understanding with the World Health Organization (WHO), the action plan of which is reviewed annually by the IAIA Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Section, WHO representatives, and IAIA Board leadership. In 2006, IAIA and WHO collaborated on the formulation of a comprehensive proposal for HIA capacity-building in eight countries in Africa. In 2005, HIA Section members Mr. Cave and Mr. Bond assisted WHO-Rome to prepare the annex, "Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment" for the *Capacity Building Manual for the Implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment*. In January 2007, the HIA Section Chair (Cave) was invited to the WHO Community Health and Safety in Development Lending meeting in Geneva, with representatives of some of the regional and global international finance institutions (e.g. International Finance Corporation, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to explore community health issues affected by development investments (projects) and tools such as HIA which could be used to address these issues. At the IAIA annual conference in Seoul (Growth, Conservation and Responsibility: Promoting Good Governance and Corporate Stewardship through Impact Assessment, June 2007), the WHO Director of Public Health and Environment, Dr. Maria Neira, gave the keynote address, and Robert Bos (WHO) and Peter Furu provided preconference training in HIA. In 2008, IAIA's HIA Section Chair (Mr. Cave) and IAIA's Biodiversity Section Chair (Ms. Treweek) spoke at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and

UNEP-supported conference, the Second International Conference on Health and Biodiversity (February 2008, Galway City, Ireland). Robert Bos and Peter Furu provided preconference training in HIA at the IAIA annual conference (The Art and Science of Impact Assessment, May 2008) in Perth, Australia. The IAIA HIA Section Chair provided detailed comment on a draft document, "Equality in HIA: Strategic Issues for WHO", as part of follow-up work to the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health; (g) **Trade and Environment**. IAIA supported the UNEP training and capacity-building efforts specifically via cooperation with the UNEP Trade and Environment Section. The IAIA website houses the UNEP Users' Training Resources Manual for Environmental Assessment as well as an interactive site for comments and questions about the Manual. IAIA is a member of the UNEP Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development. During the latter part of this reporting period (2008), IAIA and the UNEP Trade and Environment Section began working together to plan the IAIA10 annual conference, with the theme "Transitioning to a green economy" — a focus of UNEP as well as IAIA. IAIA Biodiversity Section members have taken part in the international steering group of the UNEP Trade and Biodiversity Initiative (ongoing), providing technical support to participating countries over the past three years; (h) **Capacity Development**. During this reporting period, IAIA, UNEP and UNDP worked to shape the IAIA capacity development initiative known as the Marrakech Declaration (from 2004 onward), with the understanding that the resulting initiatives would support the mutual objectives of each organization, including the Millennium Development Goals.

IAIA looks forward to continued mutually supportive efforts with the United Nations in the years to come.

## 5. International Maritime Committee (Special; 1997)

### 1. Introduction

The International Maritime Committee (CMI) is a non-governmental international organization founded in 1896 and formally organized in 1897; it is the oldest international organization in the maritime field and from its inception has been headquartered in Antwerp, Belgium. Its voting members are the constituent National Associations of Maritime Law, and at present there are over 50 such members with wide geographical distribution around the world who exercise their voting authority during the annual Assembly of the organization. There are also several categories of non-voting members including provisional and temporary member associations, consultative members consisting of both governmental and non-governmental international organizations, and individual titulary members and Members honoris causa. It is a requirement of the CMI Constitution that the individual members of its governing body, the Executive Council, be elected on the basis of diversity of geographical areas and of types of legal system. The sole constitutional objective of CMI is and has always been the promotion by all appropriate means of international uniformity in all aspects of maritime law and maritime commercial practice. From the beginning of the twentieth century this objective was attained in cooperation with the Government of Belgium, which acted between 1910 and 1979 as host to 13 Diplomatic Conferences on Maritime Law, convened to act upon draft conventions and protocols prepared by CMI; the

products of these conferences are widely known as the "Brussels Conventions on Maritime Law" and range from the 1910 Convention on Collision of Ships to the 1979 Protocols on Units of Account, introducing the Special Drawing Right of the International Monetary Fund as the monetary standard in Brussels Conventions on maritime liability and limitation. With the establishment of the Legal Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1968, CMI began to submit its draft instruments to IMO for consideration, and subsequently also to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). UNCTAD and IMO have since jointly convened working groups and diplomatic conferences to adopt, e.g., the 1999 International Convention on the Arrest of Ships and the 1993 International Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages, both of which instruments are based upon drafts prepared and submitted by CMI. There are numerous similar examples of CMI support of the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. During this reporting period there have been no constitutional, structural, or other changes having a significant impact upon the objective, functions, working methods, membership or other characteristics of CMI.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

This report will focus entirely upon those activities of the organization supporting the work and concerns of the United Nations during the reporting period, and primarily upon the key role of CMI (exercised continuously since 1997) in the development of what has since become the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea, adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2008 (resolution 63/122, annex), as this was the major project of CMI during the reporting period.

### Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

In 2005 CMI continued to participate in all of the deliberations within UNCITRAL Working Group III (Transport Law), and a report on the progress of the work within UNCITRAL by the Chairman of the CMI International Subcommittee was made to the CMI Colloquium held in Cape Town, South Africa, in February 2006. The report and consequent discussion at the Colloquium enabled the CMI representatives at the 2006 sessions of Working Group III to reflect the positions of the Committee based upon the exchanges of views of delegates from many CMI national member associations. In particular, CMI provided a requested working paper on current commercial practices related to service contracts in international shipping. This enabled Working Group III to complete its work in 2007 and approve the text of the draft Convention (A/CN.9/645), which in turn was approved by the Commission with some modifications on 3 July 2008 (A/63/17 and Corr.1). Noting its appreciation to CMI, the Commission forwarded the text to the Sixth Committee which subsequently gave its approval and forwarded the draft Convention to the General Assembly for adoption.

**Other activities: public international law**: In April 2005 CMI convened a meeting in London of the reconstituted Joint International Working Group on Maritime Criminal Acts. Participating organizations included the Baltic and International Maritime Council, the International Chamber of Shipping, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Group of P&I Clubs, the International Chamber of Commerce International Maritime Bureau, the

International Transport Workers Federation and the International Union of Marine Insurance; CMI provided secretariat services and its lead representative chaired the meetings. Working by means of four sessions (two in 2005 and two in 2006) and intersessionally by e-mail, the Joint International Working Group assembled draft guidelines for national legislation on maritime criminal acts, which, following approval by the constituent organizations, were submitted to IMO on 15 August 2007 (IMO Doc. LEG 93/12/1). The purpose of the guidelines is to unify national law with regard to serious maritime criminal acts, including piracy, and to make universal the obligation of States having jurisdiction over offenders to either prosecute or extradite them to a State that will prosecute them, thus, e.g., facilitating the elimination of piracy. The principles of the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and its 2005 Protocol are adopted by the guidelines and legislation following them would effectively enforce the Convention in national law as well as the provisions regarding piracy contained in article 101 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The net result is intended to support the concern of the United Nations General Assembly regarding piracy, which has been the subject of a number of recent resolutions urging its suppression.

## 6. International Women Bond (Special; 1997)

### I. Introduction

**Aims of the organization**: International Women Bond (IWB) was established in the early 1990s, at a time when the civil war in the Sudan was at its climax, in response to the unprecedented human, economic and social toll. IWB during the last decade continued to contribute to peacebuilding through conflict mediation, basic services delivery and poverty alleviation among the target communities in the war-affected areas. The prime targets of IWB have been women and children. In its endeavours to create a harmonious working relationship with the international community and the United Nation system, IWB succeeded in getting special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. IWB is one of the NGOs advocating the issue of the human rights situation in the Sudan, especially the rights of women, children and girls; hence, IWB is highly willing to participate in national, regional and international conferences and forums discussing human rights and the empowerment of women worldwide.

**Significant changes in the organization**: While the organization's aims and purposes remained the same, an amendment, approved by the General Assembly and by the legal authorities in the Sudan on February 2005, extends the possible geographical coverage of its activities beyond the Sudan. This allows IWB to cooperate with NGOs with similar objectives in other countries and to operate beyond the Sudan.

**Substantial increase or significant change in the geographical distribution of the membership or any substantial change in the amount and/or sources of funding**: While its broad aims and objectives, as well as the nature of its activities, remain much as described in the Constitution, IWB has expanded its range in the Sudan. It has also strengthened significantly its cooperation with non-Sudanese

NGOs and extended its operations to other countries. Furthermore, its advocacy role has been strengthened.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

### Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2008: (a) Attended the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference (April/May, Geneva) so as to contribute to the issues pertaining to racial discrimination, xenophobia and equality throughout the world; (b) Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, resumed session (May/June, New York). IWB delegates attended the meeting to be familiarized with the United Nations system, its subsidiary bodies and international NGOs; (c) Attended the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs preceding the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (June, Geneva); (d) Attended the eighth session of the Human Rights Council (June, Geneva).

It is worth mentioning that IWB would have performed much better in the implementation of United Nations programmes if the following problems were resolved: (a) scarce funds and few representative staff (all volunteers) make attendance at international meetings very difficult; and (b) poor national communications infrastructure makes it difficult to keep abreast of opportunities for collaboration through local United Nations offices.

### Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Technical assistance to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in 2007.

**Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals**: The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in Darfur: (a) **Goal 1 — Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Target 3**: Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger; **Actions**: (a) 300 expectant mothers given prenatal care; (b) 100 mothers trained in nutrition; (b) **Goal 5 — Improve maternal health**: **Actions**: 30 community midwives trained.

**Activities in support of global principles**: IWB contributed to World Diabetes Day (14 November, Khartoum). The occasion focused on the increasing hazard of diabetes, especially among children, discussing prevention and proper management, rendering health education and care to diabetes patients. IWB contributed in the International Women's Day activities in Khartoum focusing on gender and HIV/AIDS.